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University of Dayton

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The University of Dayton announced today that Jennifer Howe, who helped lead a $1.93 billion fundraising campaign for Vanderbilt University, has been named vice president for University advancement, effective July 20.
"We are very fortunate to attract Jen to Dayton, and I am excited about having her in this senior leadership role. Jen has a breadth of experience that covers all aspects of university advancement as well as a proven track record in engaging alumni, corporations, foundations and friends in supporting higher education," said President-designate Eric F. Spina.

"Her experience and wisdom will be crucial as we begin conversations about our aspirations as a University and how we can increase external support for our outstanding students, faculty and programs."

Spina, who will step into his new role on July 1, described Howe as an optimistic, creative person who will fit well into the campus culture and foster strong collaborations among alumni, faculty, staff, students and friends of the University.

"This is an ideal time for an advancement leader of Jen's caliber to join the University of Dayton, support our strategic visioning process and help lead the initiatives that will propel our community into the future," Spina said.

Howe said she's excited to join the University at a time when it is well positioned to build on its growth and momentum and when philanthropy can make a significant impact on students, faculty and the University's future.

"The true sense of community and collaboration here has been evident to me in everyone I have met," Howe said. "It's what higher education is supposed to be — an inclusive community working together to make things better for the next generation. It's amazing to have this opportunity."

Search committee chair and Provost Paul Benson said that with more than 20 years experience in leading highly successful fundraising initiatives, Howe is very familiar with the diverse range of funding goals and strategies for comprehensive research universities.

"Jen has detailed knowledge of academic programs and a deep interest in advancing the quality and diversity of students' educational experiences and research opportunities," Benson said. “She's been very creative in engaging faculty, staff, students and alumni in fundraising efforts and developed Vanderbilt's first international advancement office."

Howe brings a stellar record in leadership and fundraising, including planning and implementing successful campaigns, personally bringing in principal and major gifts totaling more than $20 million in the last four years, significantly increasing annual giving and supporting athletics' capital needs.

"The board of trustees recognizes the crucial importance of this position in helping to accelerate the University's growth and momentum at this point in our history," said Steve Cobb, board chair. "Board members were very engaged in the recruitment and selection process, and we are mindful of our critical role in helping connect the passions of our stakeholders with the vision and aspirations we share for this great University."

As vice president for advancement for the University of Dayton, Howe will be responsible for managing the development, alumni relations, corporate and foundation relations, and relationship management offices.
Howe joined Vanderbilt in 2001 and has served as associate chancellor for university development since 2002. Her responsibilities have included: development and alumni relations for undergraduate and professional schools, including the medical center; corporate and foundation relations; planned giving; and athletics fundraising. Previously, she was director of development and foundation and international relations for Emory University for five years.

Howe earned a bachelor's degree in English from James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Virginia, and has served on leadership and conference committees for the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE).

She and her husband, Andrew, an insurance professional, have been married for 25 years and share their home with two Norwegian elkhounds.

For more information, contact Shawn Robinson, associate director of media relations, at 937-229-3391 or srobinson@udayton.edu.

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