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College News: Misty Johanson Appointed Interim Dean

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Misty Johanson Appointed Interim Dean

MISTY JOHANSON, PHD, an associate business college dean, professor and director of the School of Hospitality Leadership, has been named interim dean of the Driehaus College of Business. She is the first woman to serve as business college dean at DePaul.

“I’m delighted that Dr. Johanson has accepted the invitation to lead the Driehaus College of Business during this time of transition,” DePaul Provost Marten denBoer says. “Her nearly 20 years of experience in education, combined with her outstanding leadership skills, welcoming character and financial acumen will serve the college well.”

Johanson joined DePaul in 2009 to help establish the School of Hospitality Leadership, which she has directed since 2014. She has served as an associate dean since 2011, overseeing areas that include academic quality, accreditation and advisory council engagement.

Under her leadership, the hospitality school has earned accolades for

its innovative teaching and faculty research, and forged strong ties to Chicago’s world-class hospitality industry. The Journal of Hospitality and Tourism Education recognized DePaul’s hospitality and leadership program as the best in Illinois in 2015. The J. Willard and Alice S. Marriott Foundation awarded a \$1.8 million grant to the school in 2016 to create and endow a new Center for Student Development and Engagement. The center, believed to be the first of its kind in the country, provides students with professional development and mentoring opportunities with industry leaders. A new Executive in Residence program, funded by Hyatt and Lettuce Entertain You Enterprises, brings executives into the school to network with faculty, advise students and connect them with the hospitality industry.

In addition to receiving multiple excellence in teaching awards, Johanson has published more than 50 refereed scholarly articles and two textbooks. In 2015, she became executive editor of the Journal

of Hospitality and Tourism Research, the hospitality field’s top research journal. Prior to joining DePaul, Johanson was a faculty member in the University of Hawaii’s and Georgia State University’s hospitality programs. She started her hospitality career with Marriott International after graduating from Michigan State University, where she later returned to complete her master’s and doctoral degrees in hospitality business and tourism.

“There is nothing that drives me more than preparing highly qualified students to succeed in a wide array of business and management fields,” Johanson says. “As interim dean, I look forward to a continued collaboration with faculty and staff within the college, as well as our many industry partners in Chicago and our alumni.”

Johanson will continue to lead the School of Hospitality Leadership during her interim appointment, which begins July 1. The Office of the Provost expects the dean search for the Driehaus College of Business to begin in the 2017-18 academic year.