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# Notes From The Dean: A Bold Step Forward

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# A Bold Step Forward

## WHAT SHOULD THE DRIEHAUS COLLEGE OF BUSINESS ACHIEVE BY 2024?

Over the next few months, our college community will answer this question by creating a new strategic plan that will define our vision and goals for the next six years.

Our college's path forward will be guided by the priorities set by the university's 2024 strategic plan, which will be finalized soon. Shaped by insights contributed by faculty, staff and students across campus, the draft plan is scheduled to be presented by DePaul President A. Gabriel Esteban, PhD, to the university's Board of Trustees for their approval this month. I encourage you to visit [president.depaul.edu](http://president.depaul.edu) to read more about this strategic plan.

While the university's road forward is still being mapped, it's clear that both our university and college strategic plans must embrace change. Our institution's business model is facing unprecedented challenges caused by national demographic and competitive trends that are depressing enrollments and revenues. At the same time, stagnant family incomes and government funding uncertainties are threatening college affordability. In this environment, we must make bold plans to ensure the long-term sustainability of DePaul's mission.

I believe we must emphasize strategies that improve the value proposition and mix of the academic programs we offer. We must create new programs that address market demands and contribute revenues that sustain our future, while also seeking efficiencies



**TOGETHER, WE CAN STRENGTHEN OUR MISSION TO TRANSFORM STUDENTS INTO SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE LEADERS READY TO THRIVE IN A DIVERSE AND GLOBAL BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT."**

that free resources to invest in our most successful initiatives. We must expand our efforts to promote student academic achievement, retention and career readiness. We must continue to develop faculty excellence in teaching and research.

We also must strengthen our engagement with alumni, business leaders and the community. These relationships are essential for us to continue offering students a DePaul education grounded in real-world learning and community service, as well as a powerful alumni network they can rely on throughout their careers.

I am excited about my appointment as dean and look forward to partnering with our faculty, staff, students and stakeholders to define the strategic direction of our college. Together, we can strengthen our mission to transform students into socially responsible leaders ready to thrive in a diverse and global business environment.

**Misty Johanson**

Dean  
Driehaus College of Business



## Misty Johanson Named Business Dean

**DEPAUL PROVOST** Marten denBoer has named Misty Johanson dean of the Driehaus College of Business. Johanson, director of the School of Hospitality Leadership, had served as interim dean for eight months before her appointment as dean on March 1, and she previously served as an associate dean for six years. She is the first woman to serve as dean of DePaul's business college.

College faculty, staff and industry stakeholders enthusiastically supported her appointment as interim dean last year. At that time, the provost noted that her nearly 20 years of experience in education combined with her outstanding leadership skills, welcoming character and financial acumen would serve the college well.

"That has proven to be the case," says denBoer, who named Johanson dean following a national search. "Dr. Johanson has done a laudable job, and I'm pleased the college will continue to benefit from her leadership and expertise."

Under her leadership, the college has focused on strategically growing

enrollment, promoting student success, expanding alumni and industry engagement, and enhancing faculty and staff development. Fall graduate business enrollment increased 16 percent, staff roles have been reimaged to enhance the student experience, multidisciplinary collaborations are increasing to support graduate program success and the college is forging stronger connections in the business community. Johanson also launched a campaign with the Office of Advancement to raise \$4 million for the college by the end of this academic year and exceeded the goal within the first six months.

"I look forward to continuing this work with the talented faculty and staff within the college as well as our stakeholders, especially as we embark on a new strategic plan," she says.

Denis E. Springer, chair of the Driehaus College of Business Advisory Council, praises the choice: "Misty is an energetic and innovative leader who connects exceptionally well with the university and business communities and brings a fresh perspective to the role of dean."

DePaul Provost Marten denBoer, Business Dean Misty Johanson, and DePaul President A. Gabriel Esteban at Convocation.

Johanson joined DePaul in 2009 to establish the School of Hospitality Leadership and became its director in 2014. Under her leadership, the school earned accolades for both its innovative teaching and its faculty research. The J. Willard and Alice S. Marriott Foundation awarded the school a \$1.8 million grant in 2016 to create and endow a new Center for Student Development and Engagement.

In addition to receiving multiple excellence-in-teaching awards, Johanson, a graduate of Michigan State University's hospitality business and tourism program, is recognized as one of the most prolific authors in her field. She started her hospitality career with Marriott International and later served as a faculty member in the hospitality programs of both the University of Hawaii and Georgia State University.