Dear Friends,

I am delighted to announce the appointment of two new Deans at The University of Scranton. Victoria Castellanos, Ph.D., will serve as the Dean of the Panuska College of Professional Studies, effective immediately, and Mark Higgins, Ph.D., will join us as Dean of the Kania School of Management on July 1.

Dr. Castellanos has been the Interim Dean of PCPS since January of this year, having served as Associate Dean of PCPS since joining our community in 2012. Her duties have included overseeing the PCPS undergraduate and graduate curriculum review process, the T.A.P.E.S.T.R.Y. professional development program and other PCPS projects and programs. She was also the college shepherd for the construction of Edward R. Leahy Jr. Hall. During her tenure at Scranton, Dr. Castellanos has served on numerous committees including the Provost’s Committee on Academic Policy Compliance, the Strategic Enrollment Committee and the Faculty Handbook Committee, among many others.

Prior to her service at Scranton, Dr. Castellanos was the Associate Dean of the University Graduate School at Florida International University.  She earned her bachelor’s degree from Montana State University and her master’s degree and Ph.D. in nutrition from the University of California.

Her professionalism, dedication and leadership, in addition to her caring insightfulness, have greatly benefited the University and PCPS, and I look forward to continuing to work with her as Dean.

Dr. Higgins comes to us from our sister Jesuit school, St. Louis University, where he serves as a professor of accounting and, from 2015 to 2019, was Edward Jones Dean and Professor of Accounting at their Richard A. Chaifetz School of Business. During his tenure at SLU, he has worked with deans and faculty to repurpose facilities into a multipurpose data analytics lab for finance and a behavioral lab space for marketing; and has worked with faculty to revise SLU’s one-year, full-time MBA program to focus on data analytics and ethical leadership. He has also revised faculty support models that have successfully encouraged publication in top-tier business journals; worked with the Director of the Career Center and faculty to create a required one-credit course to develop career placement skills; and partnered with leadership from SLU’s development office on major fundraising efforts for their business school.

Dr. Higgins has extensive experience with AACBS accreditation. In 2016, he chaired SLU’s successful re-affirmation of AACSB accreditation for the undergraduate and graduate business programs and worked with the department chair and the accounting faculty to achieve initial accreditation for undergraduate and graduate accounting programs. He currently serves as Chair of the AACSB Accounting Accreditation Policy Committee and is a member of the AACSB Business Accreditation Policy Committee.

Dr. Higgins earned his bachelor’s and master’s degrees from the University of South Carolina and his Ph.D. in accounting from the University of Tennessee. I know from my conversations with him, along with the endorsements of his peers, that Dr. Higgins is deeply committed to our Catholic and Jesuit mission. We are fortunate as well to have someone of his exceptional experience and expertise.

I wish to thank the committee members who conducted national searches for both of these positions.

For PCPS, search committee members included: David Marx, Ph.D., Associate Provost for Academic Affairs (Chair); Stephanie Adamec, Director, Center for Health Education and Wellness; Marian Farrell, Ph.D., Professor, Nursing Department; Julie Ferguson, Assistant Provost and Registrar; Rachael Gallagher, student representative; Renee Hakim, Ph.D., Chair, Physical Therapy Department; and Ben Willis, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Counseling and Human Services.

For KSOM, the search committee was comprised of the following colleagues: Michelle Maldonado, Ph.D., Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences (Chair); Douglas Boyle, DBA, Chair, Accounting Department; Satya P. Chattopadhyay, Ph.D., Chair, Management, Marketing and Entrepreneurship Department; Vanessa Moylan, student representative; Donna Simpson, Consultant Manager SBDC; Steven Szydlowski, DHA, Professor of Health Administration & Human Resources; and Gerald C. Zaboski, Vice President for Enrollment Management and External Affairs.

Please join me in welcoming Dr. Higgins to Scranton as Dean of KSOM, and in congratulating Dr. Castellanos on her well-deserved appointment as Dean of PCPS.

Yours faithfully,

Joseph G. Marina, S.J.

President

Fr. Joseph Marina, SJ

The University of Scranton

800 Linden Street

Scranton, PA  18510

(570)941-7500

[www.scranton.edu](http://www.scranton.edu/)