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FROM THE DESK OF ANNE A. SKLEDER



Brenau University has concluded its national search for the vice president for student development and engagement after receiving more than 100 applications – a strong pool of candidates filled with many qualified professionals.

The search committee reviewed the credentials of more than two dozen candidates and interviewed eight semi-finalists. Two candidates were recommended as finalists and

welcomed to campus in early March for additional interviews and to meet the Brenau community.

I am pleased to announce that Whitney McDowell-Robinson, Ph.D., has accepted the position as Brenau's vice president for student development and engagement. I look forward to welcoming her on campus in mid-June.

The role, previously vice president for student services, has been revamped to reflect an institutional focus on student success and engagement as reflected in Brenau's strategic plan.

McDowell-Robinson comes to us from Tougaloo College in Tougaloo, Mississippi, where she has served students in various roles since 2014, most recently as vice president for enrollment management and student services. While she will not manage enrollment at Brenau, her expertise in this area means she will be a great partner in supporting our recruiting and retention efforts.

She has a Ph.D. in urban higher education from Jackson State University, a master's degree in clinical mental health counseling from Jackson State University and a bachelor's degree in psychology from Tougaloo College.

Please join me in thanking the members of the search committee, chaired by Laura Oliveira, Ph.D., interim vice president for enrollment management, for their hard work: Jim Eck, Ph.D., provost and vice president for academic affairs; Margie Gill, Ph.D., executive director for diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging initiatives; Kelley Brock-Simmons, Ph.D., incoming dean of the College of Education; Mike Lochstampfor, vice president for athletics; Deirdre Cassell, executive director of academic initiatives and student success; and Holly Taylor, dean of student life and leadership.

My deepest appreciation, as well, to Debra Dobkins, Ph.D., who has served students as the interim vice president for more than a year in addition to her duties as dean of The Women's College and a faculty member.



Anne A. Skleder, President
