

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

December 10, 2019

**Provost Lentini appointed president at
Molloy College**

Search for chief academic officer underway

Dear Oakland University community,

It is with great pride that I share the news that Provost James Lentini has accepted the position as president of Molloy College in Rockville Center, New York, outside of Manhattan.

During his tenure, Provost Lentini has played a key role in fostering student success, attracting and retaining students, and expanding community engagement initiatives. His contributions leave an indelible mark on Oakland University.

I know that Provost Lentini will translate his many years in higher education leadership into shaping the promising future of Molloy College.

As a result of Provost Lentini's appointment, the national search to fill his position is a high priority and underway. I have appointed a 17-member search committee to identify and recommend candidates for Oakland University's next Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost.

The search committee is chaired by Glenn McIntosh, Vice President for Student Affairs and Chief Diversity Officer, and includes faculty, staff, students and a member of the OU Board of Trustees.

The Search Committee will have its first meeting on Thursday.

In January, a page on the university website will document the latest developments and progress of the search, including scheduled opportunities for the OU community to offer their input. The search will be conducted thoroughly, efficiently and fairly while maintaining a balance of transparency and confidentiality.

As we define the qualities, experience and leadership skills that are prerequisites for the top academic affairs position, we will be mindful that prospective candidates must be aligned with Oakland's mission, vision and values, and share our passion to make Oakland University the University of Choice.

During his six-year tenure, Provost Lentini's vision and accomplishments further strengthened Oakland's strategic plan, moving us closer to achieving our goals in the areas of student success, research, community engagement along with becoming a more diverse, equitable and inclusive campus.

Provost Lentini's notable contributions include:

- Overseeing student success initiatives leading to a 10-percent increase in graduation rates and a doubling of the four-year graduation rate since 2013 (both are all-time highs).
- Leading initiatives resulting in Oakland University's rise in the Carnegie Classification from R3 to R2 status (Doctoral University-High Research Activity).
- Overseeing the development of new academic programs and research centers, and the formation of new leadership models and organizational structures for the School of Music, Theatre and Dance, Office of Research, the Graduate School, and the Office of Student Success.

- Working closely with Beaumont Health in advancing the Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine, which graduated its charter class in 2015.
- Leading the alignment of strategic initiatives relating to student success, research, and community engagement.
- Contributing key strategy to the design and planning of the construction and renovation of two academic buildings (South Foundation Hall and Wilson Hall).
- Implementing the Strategic Enrollment Management Plan to attract and retain students.
- Overseeing preparation for the university's successful institutional reaccreditation, achieved in 2019.
- Creating the Provost Fellow for Faculty Diversity position to develop strategies that promote faculty diversity and launched new Postdoctoral Fellowships in Diversity and Equal Opportunity in Higher Education.

In these past few years working with Provost Lentini, I have appreciated the time spent alongside a dedicated academic, administrator, and compassionate professional who demonstrates every day that he has the welfare and success of students as his highest priority.

Please join with me in congratulating Provost Lentini on his appointment as president of Molloy College.

[Click here for Provost Lentini's biographical background](#)