
Colleagues,

Accreditation by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education is essential to Marist's ability to operate as a college, and the reaccreditation process serves as a critical function for institutional growth and renewal. In considering a co-chair to help lead the two-year Self Study process, the College sought a gifted faculty leader who could oversee a high-level, complex, campus-wide initiative. As chair of the reaccreditation effort, I am pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Carol Rinke, Associate Professor of Education and Assistant Dean of the School of Social and Behavioral Sciences, as co-chair.

Carol joined Marist in 2013, having previously served as Assistant Professor at Gettysburg College, and earned tenure in 2017. She currently leads the Education Department in its assessment and accreditation efforts and brings a deep understanding of the accreditation process to this role. She is an innovative instructor in the field of STEM education with enthusiastic student responses to her interactive teaching methods. She has developed and run courses that engage Marist students with the local community, and has forged new bonds in the City of Poughkeepsie. Her robust scholarship record includes three books and 29 peer-reviewed publications that address the recruitment and retention of educators, particularly in high-need fields such as math, science, and urban education. Her recent book, *Urban Education in the United States* (Rutgers University Press, 2019), coauthored with Lynnette Mawhinney, was the recipient of the American Educational Studies Association Critics Choice Book Award. Carol has a long history of leadership in social justice initiatives across campus: she is co-founder of Creating an Inclusive Community dialogues about race and racism in the college classroom; coordinated Marist Center for Social Justice Research, which engages interdisciplinary faculty, students, and community partners in applied scholarship that serves the needs of the local community; and has served on the team that brought the Explorations in Social Justice conference to the Marist campus. She holds a Ph.D. from the University of Maryland College Park, M.A. from Teachers College at Columbia University, and B.A. from Stanford University.

Please help me congratulate Carol Rinke on her appointment and wish her well in this vital role.

Meanwhile, please know the College expects to make additional appointments to the Steering Committee and several Working Groups. There will be many opportunities for members of the Marist faculty to assist in Marist's reaccreditation process.

Thomas S. Wermuth
Vice President for Academic Affairs/Dean of Faculty

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