



UNIVERSITY OF SAINT JOSEPH

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SHANNON KULA, D.L.S. NAMED DIRECTOR, WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP CENTER



WEST HARTFORD, Conn. (Jan. 8, 2018) – The Women’s Leadership Center (WLC) at the University of Saint Joseph (USJ) proudly welcomes Shannon Kula, D.L.S. as its founding director. In this role, she will oversee all aspects of USJ’s important commitment to empower women as leaders in their academic pursuits, community life, and professional careers.

President Rhona C. Free, Ph.D., remarked on the new director, “Now more than ever, women need to be involved in decision-making at the highest levels in all organizations. With her unique experience and perspective, Dr. Kula will develop programs for the Women’s Leadership Center that empower and prepare women, and men, to be effective, ethical leaders in their communities and workplaces.”

With a dedicated volunteer leadership council, public donations, and USJ support, the Center develops, encourages, and strengthens opportunities to advance women's leadership experiences and increase their presence at decision-making tables in all disciplines.

"After nearly two decades working in the U.S. Senate and for the longest serving woman in our nation's history, I have witnessed firsthand the vital perspectives, life experiences, and impact women senators bring to constituent service and legislative policy. Similarly, the WLC will not only continue to meet the needs of women in the 21st century but it will also challenge the status quo and empower women to develop their leadership skills, make their voices heard, and be forces for good locally, nationally, and globally," remarked Dr. Kula.

Most recently, Dr. Kula was Chief of Staff to U.S. Senator Barbara A. Mikulski and, in 2017, retired after completing over 13 years of service in her office. For nearly two decades, Dr. Kula led strategic initiatives with advocates on women, children, and the nation's military. Prior to Senator Mikulski, Dr. Kula was a legislative aide to U.S. Senator Christopher J. Dodd and worked in both his Connecticut and Washington, D.C. offices. In addition, Dr. Kula worked for the public relations/public affairs firms Hill & Knowlton and WPP. Dr. Kula is also a proud member of a U.S. Marine Corps family that has worked to help other military families with loved ones serving at home or overseas. Currently, Dr. Kula is working on publishing her book about the bipartisan accomplishments of the women of the U.S. Senate. She received her bachelor's degree from the University of Rochester and her master's and doctorate degrees from Georgetown University.

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The University of Saint Joseph (USJ) offers a wide range of coeducational undergraduate, graduate, and certificate programs that combine a professional and liberal arts education with a focus on service. Undergraduate programs for both traditional and adult students take place on our beautiful suburban campus and include more than 26 majors and seven pre-professional programs, taught by expert faculty in an engaging environment. Graduate master's and doctoral degree programs are taught on the University's two campuses in West Hartford and Hartford, Connecticut; at off-campus locations throughout the state; and online. Founded in 1932 by the Sisters of Mercy, the University of Saint Joseph welcomes students from diverse backgrounds and religious traditions. To learn more, view our website at www.usj.edu.

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