



UNIVERSITY OF SAINT JOSEPH

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Contact: Diana Sousa, Office of Marketing and Communications

Telephone: 860.231.5297

Email: dianasousa@usj.edu

CT COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION DIANNA WENTZELL TO JOIN THE UNIVERSITY OF SAINT JOSEPH AS DIRECTOR OF CLINICAL EDUCATION

New appointment adds significant clinical focus to USJ's reputation for graduating classroom-ready teachers

WEST HARTFORD, Conn. (April 16, 2019) – In recognition of the importance of integrated clinical experience during teacher preparation programs, the University of Saint Joseph (USJ) today announced that Connecticut's Commissioner of Education Dianna Wentzell, Ed.D., will become Interim Director of Clinical Education, starting summer 2019.

"Our teachers are our heroes," Wentzell said. "This University is a leader in teacher preparation because of how it integrates real classroom clinical practice throughout the Education and teacher licensure programs. New thinking is being applied to the preparation and placement of classroom teachers, and I'm excited to be a part of it."

Wentzell brings more than 30 years of classroom teaching experience and administrative leadership achievements to the University. In her current role with the Connecticut Department of Education, she has focused on statewide reduction of the Achievement Gap, an increase in the racial and ethnic diversity of the educator workforce, and the implementation of more rigorous standards and assessments.

"We are excited to welcome Dr. Wentzell to USJ this summer. Her expertise is an exceptional addition to our outstanding faculty and staff, while her extensive experience, successful track record, and her local and national professional relationships will benefit our students and alumni," said Provost Michelle Kalis, Ph.D.

USJ's undergraduate and graduate Education programs – accredited by the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) and approved by the Connecticut State Board of Education and Office of Higher Education – lead to advanced education and teacher licensure in a variety of disciplines, preparing graduates for a lifetime of making a difference in society.

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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.

OFFICE OF MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS

1678 Asylum Avenue | West Hartford, Connecticut 06117-2791 | Tel: 860.231.5602

Fax: 860.231.5882 | www.usj.edu