



Dear Members of the CSB and SJU Communities,

Thanks to the exceptional work of the provost search committee, we had an outstanding pool of provost candidates and four strong finalists on campus, whom many of you met. We are truly grateful for the hard work, diligence and open process the search committee utilized to lead this process. We are especially appreciative of Michael Livingston's leadership of the committee.

We are pleased to announce that after a national search for a new chief academic officer, we have selected Dr. Richard Ice as the Provost of the College of St. Benedict and Saint John's University.

Among this competitive group of candidates Richard clearly demonstrated a deep experience with and commitment to residential liberal arts, thorough understanding of the importance of working across divisions for the benefit of our students and active participation in the national conversation about the future of higher education.

As we press forward with the implementation of Strategic Directions 2020, we are confident that Richard is the right choice to lead Academic Affairs during this important time in the colleges' history. He currently leads a number of SD2020 initiatives and his ongoing leadership will enable us to maintain momentum while implementing a vision for, and creating stability within, academic affairs. Richard's keen understanding of how best to navigate the coordinate relationship and how to incorporate that into the bright academic future outlined in SD2020 was compelling. Richard also clearly expressed his understanding and appreciation for, and willingness to enhance, our inclusive and engaging Catholic and Benedictine values throughout his work and his vision for academic affairs.

Further, based on feedback from the community, he has clearly earned the confidence and respect of faculty, staff, cabinet colleagues and trustees through his diverse leadership portfolio, including work on academic issues like program review, HLC, faculty and staff composition design, and improving academic facilities including the Learning Commons and the renovation of the Main. Many also cited Richard's leadership as he steered our institutions to the current five-day schedule.

We look forward to supporting Richard's leadership in Academic Affairs and on our campuses as a whole. Please join us in congratulating Richard.

Sincerely,

*Mary Dana Hinton*

*Michael Hemesath*