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## September 16, 2019 - From the President's Desk

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*Wright State University - Main Campus*

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Dear Campus Community,

Last year's strategic planning process brought clarity to many important goals and aspirations for Wright State University. One such aspiration is greater management and coordination of the university's external image through coordinated efforts in advancement, community, and public relations.

I am happy to share that a critical part of that vision will soon be in place as R. Scott Rash has been hired as the next President and CEO of the Wright State University Foundation.

Scott is charged with reshaping the future of the Wright State Foundation and leading it to new levels of success. He will advance strategies for growth, build the endowment, work with our valued partners while developing new partnerships and relationships, and discover innovative and unique opportunities for revenue generation beyond traditional fundraising activities.

Scott joins the Wright State Foundation after serving at Gannon University in Erie, Pennsylvania, as vice president for university advancement since 2016.

Many of you are aware that Becky Cole, before retiring last June, served as both President and CEO of the Foundation as well as vice president of advancement for 10 years at Wright State. When Scott joins the Wright State Foundation on September 30, it will represent a new beginning in how Wright State University and the Foundation are structured to complement each other in pursuit of advancement goals. Scott will be employed by the Wright State Foundation, not the university, and will report directly to the Wright State University Foundation Board of Trustees.

A search for Wright State's new Vice President for Institutional Advancement is currently underway. The new Vice President for Institutional Advancement will be a university employee reporting to the President and will lead traditional fundraising efforts that benefit Wright State's students, programs, and initiatives. The Vice President will also lead a newly created Office of Corporate and Community Engagement and the existing Advancement, Alumni Relations, Marketing, and Communications offices. The Vice President will be responsible for driving strategy and coordinating the university's external image and messaging across all of its externally facing touch points.

As the Foundation did with its search, the university is utilizing the firm Witt Kieffer for the Vice President of Institutional Advancement search. Witt Kieffer has extensive experience in hiring for this position, and we are pleased to partner with them.

During this search, we hope that you will be as engaged as much as possible and take advantage of opportunities to interact with the candidates in the process. The university plans to host Vice President for Institutional Advancement forums once finalists have been identified. We will share more about those dates and times in future communications.

Warmest regards,

Cheryl B. Schrader, Ph.D.

*President*

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