

Goddard College

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DR. BARBARA VACARR NAMED NEW GODDARD COLLEGE PRESIDENT

The Board of Trustees of Goddard College has elected Dr. Barbara Vacarr as its next president. Dr. Vacarr is currently serving as Director of Lesley University's School of Education Ph.D. Programs in Cambridge. The announcement came following a special meeting of Goddard's Board of Trustees. Vacarr is expected to assume leadership of Goddard College on July 1, 2010, when President Mark Schulman steps away. Dr. Schulman, Goddard's third-longest serving president, has led Goddard since 2003.

The presidential search process began in June 2009 when Dr. Schulman announced to the Goddard Board of Trustees that he wished to return to his home in California at the end of his term. A Search Committee was formed, comprised of trustee, faculty, student and staff representatives who worked closely with the consultancy firm Academic Search to guide the search process. The Committee interviewed select applicants and the top three candidates were invited to the Plainfield, Vermont campus to make formal presentations and engage with Goddard's faculty, staff, and students. Following these sessions and an extensive review of the various constituencies' input, the Search Committee recommended the appointment of Dr. Vacarr as Goddard's next leader to the Board of Trustees at their February 2010 meeting.

"Throughout the process, I was impressed with the active engagement of the Goddard community, its warmth and genuine caring for students and for one another", Vacarr said. "The mission and spirit of Goddard is inspirational and I am deeply honored with this opportunity to lead an institution that continually and consciously strives to live its commitments. I have been an admirer of Goddard throughout my career as an educator and feel privileged to serve in a college that models best practices of teaching and adult learning. I see this as a time for Goddard to claim the expertise and vision that lives in this community and to assume a more public voice as an educational leader and innovator"

"Dr. Vacarr appreciates the role that Goddard plays in higher education", said Board Chair Joan Shafran, a graduate of the Goddard Adult Degree Program. "She will uphold, enhance and expand Goddard's reputation as an experimenting institution, making the extraordinary Goddard model of education available to more students across North America and around the world. She can respond to those who are looking for an educational model that will serve students of the 21st

Goddard College

century, a model that reflects the ideals of democracy, caring for others and the welfare of the earth, fulfilling our mission.”

Trustee Stephen Friedman, chair of the Presidential Search Committee, said, “Our national search has been wonderfully successful for Goddard. Dr. Vacarr connected with each member of the committee and the Board in a way that indicates she will continue adding to Goddard’s years of growth, and that she will build upon the College’s position as the national leader in progressive higher education. “

Vacarr has been developing and leading programs and teaching adults at Lesley University for the past 22 years. She conceptualized and developed the new doctoral program in Adult Learning, was instrumental in developing a Joint BS/MA in Clinical Mental Health Counseling, a joint BS/MA in self-designed interdisciplinary study, a Specialization for Substance Abuse Counseling and Certification, and an interdisciplinary program in Elder Studies. Vacarr brings appreciation of the important role that experience plays in learning, and facilitates collaborative processes that free creativity and invite innovation.

Vacarr has maintained a private counseling practice, led the Cambodian Youth and Missing History Documentary Project, was an interviewer for the Shoah Foundation’s Visual History of the Shoah Project and has conducted research for the Center for Psychology and Social Change. Goddard College developed the first adult degree programs in 1963, and now specializes in low-residency education. Offering accredited degree programs in Plainfield, Vermont and Port Townsend, Washington that are designed to accommodate the way adults learn best, Goddard offers a rich campus experience, and a diverse academic community. Goddard’s authentic low-residency format offers the best of on-campus and online – experienced faculty advisors who are practitioners in their academic fields, an enriching on-campus experience, and the freedom to study from anywhere.

For more information, visit www.goddard.edu.