



March 8, 2022

Dear Friends,

A short time ago, St. Bonaventure University [announced](#) the appointment of Jeff Gingerich, Ph.D., Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, to serve as their 22nd President. Dr. Gingerich will succeed Dr. Joseph Zimmer, who has served as acting president since Dr. Dennis DePerro passed away March 1, 2021.

Dr. Gingerich was unanimously selected after a nine-month search process led by a committee comprising trustees of St. Bonaventure, as well as administrators, faculty, staff and students. He will be introduced to the St. Bonaventure community at a 12:30 p.m. press conference Wednesday, March 9. The press conference will be streamed live on their [university's](#) ustream.tv channel.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I want to offer my heartfelt congratulations to Dr. Gingerich on this fitting recognition of the leadership, innovation and devotion to mission that we have come to appreciate during his tenure at Scranton.

Dr. Gingerich enjoys a special place in the University's history, having served as acting president following the death of Rev. Scott R. Pilarz, S.J. His impact on our campus can be seen in so many ways. A key institutional leader throughout the pandemic, he guided the University and its faculty through unprecedented transitions to online and hybrid classes before returning to fully in-person instruction. He also oversaw the successful conclusion of the University's most recent accreditation review by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education and led the University's planning efforts, which culminated in a new Strategic Plan.

Dr. Gingerich's tenure included a renewed focus on securing federal support for research and sponsored programs. In just the last two years, for example, Scranton received more than \$2 million in grants, including funding from NASA, the National Science Foundation and National Institute for the Humanities. He also championed a number of new academic programs and initiatives, including a partnership with a regional state correctional facility that is enabling incarcerated individuals to earn an associate's degree through courses taught on site by Scranton faculty.

A consistent voice for diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives within academic affairs and across campus, Dr. Gingerich advanced new initiatives and programs at Scranton related to faculty hiring and development, staff and administrator training, curricular improvements, and student support and engagement.

On a personal level, I cannot thank Jeff enough for his wise counsel, steadfast support and friendship throughout my own transition and during this first year with you. Like so many of you, I will miss him and his wife, Betsy. But I look forward to remaining colleagues in Catholic higher education and wish him and St. Bonaventure every success in the coming years.

Dr. Gingerich will conclude his service to Scranton on June 1, 2022. In the coming weeks, I will share information about our plans to celebrate his service to Scranton and to address the need to identify an interim provost. For now, please join me in congratulating and thanking Dr. Gingerich for all that he has done and continues to do to serve our students and advance our mission.

Yours faithfully,
Joseph G. Marina, S.J.
President