

OFFICE OF PROVOST WELCOMES NEW LEADERSHIP

Three new members join the leadership team at the Office of the Provost and Academic Affairs:

1. Susan Belport, interim dean for the School of Nursing, effective July 1
2. Michelle DenBeste, interim dean for the Hasan School of Business, effective Aug. 1
3. Abby Davidson, assistant provost for student success, effective Aug. 16

Susan Belport, Interim Dean of the School of Nursing



Susan Belport's nursing career began after graduating from CSU Pueblo (then USC) in 1987. Her experience spans higher education, hospital administration, private practice as a nurse practitioner, and clinical roles.

Belport holds a Doctor of Nursing Practice from University College Colorado Springs, a master's in nursing with a Family Nurse Practitioner emphasis from Beth-El College of Nursing, and post-master's certificates in Acute Care Nurse Practitioner and Nurse Educator from CSU Pueblo.

For 11 years, Belport maintained a clinical practice while developing graduate nursing simulation, teaching hybrid courses, and mentoring faculty. She led efforts to develop and seek accreditation for CSU Pueblo's first doctorate program, which began in 2018.

"My diverse experience in nursing practice and education has prepared me to lead the School of Nursing with a holistic perspective," Belport said. "I'm committed to fostering innovation in our programs and preparing our students for the evolving healthcare landscape."

Her research interests include faculty development, student and program outcomes, vaccines for children healthcare policy, population health for chronic illness, and implementing evidence-based practices in clinical settings.

Michelle DenBeste, Interim Dean of the Hasan School of Business



Michelle DenBeste joins CSU Pueblo after serving as provost and vice president for academic and student life at Central Washington University. She previously worked at California State University Fresno for 20 years as department chair of history and dean of the College of Social Sciences.

DenBeste holds a bachelor's in Russian and East European Studies from the University of Washington and a master's and Ph.D. in History from Southern Illinois University. Her research focuses on 19th-century Russian women doctors.

"I bring a unique perspective to the Hasan School of Business," DenBeste said. "My background in humanities and experience in academic leadership will help us build interdisciplinary connections and prepare our students for the complex challenges of today's business world."

As an administrator, DenBeste prioritizes removing barriers to student success and professional development. She recently led a high-impact practices summer institute focused on developing equitable and sustainable practices at CWU.

DenBeste is passionate about international travel and has led student trips to London, Prague and Russia. In October 2022, she participated in a Fulbright Administrator grant to France. Outside work, she enjoys outdoor activities like skiing, snowshoeing, hiking, biking and camping.

Abby Davidson, Assistant Provost for Student Success



Abby Davidson has worked in student support and HSI STEM grants at CSU Pueblo since 2014. She co-wrote the Mentoring Access & Platforms in STEM Program (MAPS) grant and served as project director for MAPS and the Communities to Build Active STEM Engagement Program (CBASE).

With 10 years of experience in student support and tutor coordination, Davidson has shown campus leadership in developing academic support structures. She holds master's degrees in Biology and Sustainability Education, with expertise in mixed-method educational research and program evaluation.

Davidson said, "My experience in grant writing and program development has given me insights into creating effective support systems for our diverse student body. I'm excited to use this knowledge to enhance student success across all disciplines at CSU Pueblo."

She has proven herself a compassionate supervisor, prioritizing employee wellness, work-life balance, and belongingness at both student employee and professional staff levels.

"I believe in the tremendous importance of CSU Pueblo as a regional comprehensive Hispanic Serving Institution," Davidson added. "I'm proud to call Pueblo my hometown and honored to serve my hometown institution and community in this new role."