

From: Office of Communications [US] <Communications@umuc.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, April 21, 2020 11:31 AM
To: Global Faculty and Staff
Subject: An Important Message from UMGC President Javier Miyares

Dear Colleagues,

I hope you and your families remain safe and well as we continue to navigate this unprecedented crisis. And I thank you again, from the bottom of my heart, for your remarkable efforts, which have allowed us to continue to provide seamless service to our global student community.

As the world continues to adjust to this pandemic, it is critical that we remain focused on our strategic priorities while positioning ourselves to maintain momentum, continue our institutional evolution, and support our sister universities as Maryland, our nation, and our world begin to emerge from the crisis.

With these objectives in mind, I have appointed Louis C. “Lou” Pugliese to serve as executive vice president of UMGC, effective April 26.

Lou—a founding CEO of Blackboard, Inc.—joined UMUC Ventures as CEO in August 2019 after serving most recently as senior innovation fellow and managing director of Arizona State University’s EdTech innovation research and development enterprise, the Action Lab at EdPlus-ASU.

Lou’s commitment to UMGC’s mission and his vision for our future—including UMGC’s relationship to UMUC Ventures—are truly inspiring, and he has a well-earned reputation as a thought leader focused on driving change across higher education, improving learning outcomes, and leveraging technology to create more effective learning environments.

At Ventures, Lou was instrumental in guiding HelioCampus through its addition of a new, majority shareholder—a move that ultimately yielded a fourfold return on the University System of Maryland’s initial investment in HelioCampus and a \$16 million addition to the UMGC endowment.

Lou’s previous leadership roles also include serving as chair and CEO of Moodlerooms, entrepreneur-in-residence for Novak Biddle Venture Partners, and CEO of AnswerLogic. He is widely published and a sought-after speaker on topics related to the impact and efficacy of digital learning; next-generation analytics; adaptive learning systems; the evolution of learning management systems; and more.

I have deeply appreciated the depth and breadth of Lou’s vision as it pertains to UMUC Ventures and to the future of adult higher education in general, and I look forward to working with him more closely to move our institution forward, position it for further innovation and growth, and cement its position at the forefront of 21st-century education for adults in the workforce and the military.

In his new role, Lou will oversee business operations, Finance, Strategic Enrollment Management, Academic Affairs, and a new position of chief digital officer that we will fill

shortly. Lou has agreed to continue to lead UMUC Ventures as a search is conducted for a new CEO and as he transitions to the UMGC executive vice president role.

Please join me in congratulating Louis C. “Lou” Pugliese and welcoming him to UMGC as he assumes this critically important position.

I am also pleased to announce that I have appointed Blakely Pomietto as senior vice president and chief academic officer, effective April 26. Blakely has served most capably since April 2018 as deputy chief academic officer and before that as acting provost and senior vice president for Academic Affairs. She played a central role in our recent administrative realignment of Academic Affairs, and I look forward to her continued leadership as we complete the implementation of that realignment and move forward under the new administrative framework.

Finally, join me in extending a special thank you to Dr. Peter Smith, who has served with distinction since September 2019 as interim senior vice president and chief academic officer in Academic Affairs. Peter—who joined UMGC in 2016 as Orkand Endowed Chair and Professor of Innovative Practices in Higher Education—will continue with UMGC as senior advisor for academic innovation and as Orkand Endowed Chair.

Again, thank you *all* for the role you play at UMGC, for your belief in our mission, and for all you do to support our students.

Sincerely,

Javier Miyares
President
University of Maryland Global Campus