

Thursday, June 18, 2015

Interim leaders named at OU for Development, Alumni and Community Engagement

President George W. Hynd has announced that Geoffrey Upward and Angie Schmucker have been selected to fill interim positions in the Development, Alumni and Community Engagement, or DACE division at Oakland University.

“I can assure you that DACE will benefit from the strong leadership backgrounds that both Geoff and Angie bring to the table while the division transitions to its next chapter of growth in university engagement and support,” said President Hynd of the appointments. “They are both accomplished and dedicated colleagues.”

Upward, who has a 31-year history with Oakland, has agreed to serve as interim vice president of DACE while a national search is conducted for a permanent successor.

In his current position as executive director of Meadow Brook Hall, Upward reversed a \$1.5 million deficit in 2004, launched new fundraising and membership programs, created a maintenance and operating reserve of more than \$2 million, oversaw a \$7 million restoration and preservation project and secured a national historic landmark designation for the hall.

He is presently managing a \$3.3 million Wilson Fund matching grant for preservation, conservation and interpretation, which requires that more than \$500,000 be raised annually to meet the match. Upward has also initiated the first phase of a new, \$10 million fundraising campaign for the hall.

Prior to managing Meadow Brook Hall, Geoff was founder and director of the Communications and Marketing department, founder and publisher of numerous campus publications and served as acting vice president for University Relations. Outside Oakland, he has held administrative and editorial positions with Arabians magazine, Michigan Bell Telephone Company, Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village and the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Reporting to Upward and filling the position of campaign director will be Angie Schmucker.

Schmucker was recently named the 2015 Outstanding Administrative Professional of the Year at Oakland. She has been with the university for 13 years.

In her present role as executive director of Planned and Annual Giving, Schmucker has secured millions of dollars to support the academic units and departments at Oakland. In 2014 alone, she stewarded \$9 million in planned giving cash and more than \$2 million in future gifts.

Schmucker also has overseen the establishment of countless new academic scholarships, the Senior Class Gift and the Parent/Family Giving Campaign. She also helped found the Student Philanthropy Committee, the Black and Gold Loyalty Society, the Planned Giving Vision Society, the Oakland Circle and the Pioneer Club for OU retirees.

Other accomplishments include orchestrating and executing the merger of the university’s Planned and Annual Giving operations, raising more than \$7.8 million during the Innovation and Opportunity capital campaign, and maintaining prestigious Certified Fundraising Executive status since 2007.

Prior to coming to Oakland, Angie held technical, planning and development positions with Meadow Brook Theatre; Kelly Services; Keycorp and Andersen Consulting.



Geoffrey Upward



Angie Schmucker

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Hills in Oakland County, Michigan. The University has 135 bachelor's degree programs and 135 graduate degree and certificate programs. Oakland is a nationally recognized public university with more than 20,500 students. Academics include programs in the College of Arts and Sciences, School of Business Administration, School of Education and Human Services, School of Engineering and Computer Science, School of Health Sciences, School of Medicine and School of Nursing.