

RIVIER UNIVERSITY INITIATES GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM

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Office of Marketing & Communications, Rivier College



As part of a newly implemented global engagement program, Rivier University has recently welcomed **Mark Meehan, Ph.D.**, as its first associate vice president for global engagement. The new program is intended to expand Rivier's global presence and is part of a strategic plan to initiate more global opportunities for the university community, including a study abroad program for students, faculty exchange agreements with other institutions, and a global speakers program for the community. Rivier has been working toward pursuing global initiatives and partnerships that will benefit students and extend the University's global reach. Rivier's transition to univer-

sity status, which became official on July 1, will be instrumental to Rivier's ability to "engage in a global environment" and "broaden the institution's profile beyond its Nashua campus, offering students an opportunity to learn on a global level," said Sister Paula Marie Buley, IHM, Rivier's President.

In this newly created role, Meehan will be responsible for managing agreements with international universities and creating international service experiences and internships. Meehan has a doctorate in Higher Education Leadership and Policy with a Cognate in International Business and Finance from the University of South Carolina. His past professional experience includes, most recently, serving as an administrative consultant at the Arnold School of Public Health at the University of South Carolina. He has traveled to over forty countries around the world and has taught in several countries including Brazil, South Africa and India. His dissertation is being published as a book by Cambridge Scholars Press and will be titled "Islam, Modernity, and the Liminal Space Between." A second book, to be titled "Learning from Islam" and published by Conundrum Press, is forthcoming.

Rivier's global engagement program also includes a new bachelor's program in Global Studies, which will focus on liberal arts but include broader subjects about the global environment to help students get a glimpse of worldwide culture and problems, as opposed to those only in the United States.

"Today's college graduates need to be globally aware and be able to function in a globally competitive environment," said Martin Menke, Global Studies program director and professor. "Our worldwide economy has impacted nearly every profession and profoundly influences our society in so many other ways. Travel is an outstanding form of experiential learning and we want to allow our students to personally witness life outside the United States."

As part of Rivier's global engagement program, Rivier recently entered into an agreement with On-Campus Boston (OCB), a new organization housed at Wheelock College in Boston, Mass. On-Campus Boston is a partnership with several institutions in the Boston and surrounding area, including Rivier. The agreement facilitates the recruitment and admission of international students who have completed a college preparatory program at Wheelock. In the first year of the program, students will be based at Wheelock, offering them a US college experience within a safe and secure environment where they can settle into college life. Upon completion of the University Transfer Program, students will have the opportunity to advance to the second year of degree courses at the partner institutions, including Rivier. The goal is that this initiative will provide international students with a direct path to Rivier's undergraduate and graduate academic programs.

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Rivier will be highlighted as a partner institution on the On-Campus Boston web site. International students may enter the OCB program with the goal of attending Rivier, or they may defer selection of a specific institution until they complete the preparatory program.

“I’m deeply grateful for this exciting new opportunity at Rivier,” said Meehan. “I’m convinced Rivier’s long history of involvement with other cultures has created the perfect platform for a range of dynamic new initiatives. The recently signed agreement with On-Campus Boston is a good example. As the partnership develops, we will see new students coming to Nashua from all over the world. Their presence on campus will have an immediate global impact on our American students.” ■

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