

# succeeding

## IN INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT

*Wendy Pestrue leads the Institutional Advancement team following the retirement of vice president Rich Rejeau*

Wendy Pestrue has been named vice president for institutional advancement, succeeding Rich Pejeau who retired June 30 after six years with Defiance College and nearly 40 years in higher education administration.

Pestrue will oversee the college's advancement programs, including fundraising, alumni and parent relations, planned giving, corporate and foundation relations, and the annual fund. She comes to Defiance from Philadelphia where she has been the senior director of development for clinical programs at Temple University School of Medicine. Previously, she was director of grateful patient fundraising with The Ohio State University School of Medicine.

President Gordon said he is "absolutely delighted" that Pestrue has joined the Defiance College community. "She brings a wealth of different experiences and has proven herself to be innovative and creative as well as being extremely dedicated," he continued. "I am very much looking forward to working with her as we move our advancement and alumni giving to a new level. I am confident that our existing alumni and donors are as thrilled as I am that we were able to attract somebody of Wendy's caliber to Defiance College, and I know she will help us reach out to many new potential donors as well."

Pestrue commented, "I am thrilled to join Defiance College as it strives to offer world-class opportunities for students. DC's mission to enhance student-centered learning and invaluable educational experiences beyond the classroom was what I found most compelling.

"Remaining focused on what makes Defiance College special in the community and on the national stage has been at the



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WENDY PESTRUE, VICE PRESIDENT  
FOR INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT

center of the institutional advancement program, and I am delighted to be working with President Gordon and his team to continue this endeavor."

At Temple and Ohio State, Pestrue was involved in all aspects of annual fund, planned gift, corporate and foundation fundraising as well as alumni outreach and prospect development. She also served as director of development for the OSU College of Nursing, and prior to that, spent several years in political fundraising. She began her professional career as a teacher



Rich Pejeau

with the Houston Learning Academy and Houston Public Schools.

Pestrue earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Houston and a juris doctorate from Capital University Law School.

President Gordon also lauded Pejeau's successful tenure.

"On behalf of

Defiance College, we are so grateful to Rich for everything he has done over the past six years. He has done a tremendous job, and we all wish him a wonderful retirement." ♦