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Education

College names new dean of business school, new VP of finance



By Kate Friedman, reporter, Buffalo Business First
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Canisius University has named Shawn O'Rourke the new dean of the Richard J. Wehle School of Business.

O'Rourke had been the college's director of graduate and undergraduate sports programs for more than a decade. He became **interim dean last year** when the previous dean of five years, Denise Rotondo, left for a position at Queens University of Charlotte in North Carolina.

"The first thing I want to do is get the brand of the Wehle School of Business out there," O'Rourke said. "What I've seen in the last six months is that we have tremendous faculty that do a lot of things in and outside of the classroom. We also have great students, and we have really engaged alumni. I just think people don't know what we do."



Shawn O'Rourke, interim dean of the Richard J. Wehle School of Business
PHOTO COURTESY OF CANISIUS COLLEGE



As an example, O'Rourke said that a Wehle School professor of accounting, Shannon Jemiolo, spearheaded the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program, in which she

supervises students as they provide free income tax services for people in need in the community.

“All our different departments do neat things like this, and I want to expand on it and brand it,” O’Rourke said.

He said the school is also talking to businesses “to see if we can create some micro credentials that will fit their needs” in areas like cybersecurity, business and data analytics and sports analytics.

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Canisius also hired a new vice president for finance and administration earlier this month. Robert Baomet, formerly the CFO at Keuka College, will start the position May 15. He previously held positions at Buffalo State University, including director of business services.

