

## **MEMORANDUM**

TO: University Community

FROM: Vilas A. Prabhu  
Provost and Vice President  
for Academic Affairs

DATE: August 31, 2017

RE: **APPOINTMENT OF UNIVERSITY HONORS COLLEGE DIRECTOR**

I am pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Elizabeth A. Thyrum as the Director of the University Honors College, effective August 28, 2017. This position reports to the Provost or designee.

Dr. Elizabeth Thyrum is Assistant Chair and Associate Professor of Psychology at Millersville University, where she has taught since 1994. She is an MU alumna (1986) and a graduate of MU's original Honors Program. Dr. Thyrum received her M.S. in Behavioral Neuroscience and Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from Rutgers University. Prior to returning to MU as a faculty member, Dr. Thyrum completed a clinical psychology internship through Brown University's Medical School as well as a Post-Doctoral Fellowship/Research Associate position in the Division of Medical Psychology at Duke University Medical Center. She currently is a licensed psychologist in Pennsylvania.

During her 23 years at MU, Dr. Thyrum has taught a variety of undergraduate and graduate courses in psychology, including Psychology of Drug Addiction, Health Psychology, Directed Projects and a graduate course in Biopsychology. She has supervised numerous departmental and University Honors College senior theses along with Master's theses. During the past decade, she has worked to further develop community partnerships with non-profit organizations, in educational settings, and with other physical and mental health-related agencies as a way to broaden opportunities for students completing service learning projects and for students enrolled in Directed Projects (a field experience course for psychology majors).

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Dr. Thyrum's research interests, publications and conference presentations have been related to issues concerning substance abuse, stress and coping, cognitive functioning and physical illness (HIV, hypertension), and quality of life as related to chronic illness.

Dr. Thyrum looks forward to continuing to broaden connections between students in the University Honors College both on campus and in the greater community.

I would like to thank the Honors College Committee members for their assistance in the selection process.

In addition, I would like to thank Dr. Dennis Downey, who has served as Director of the University Honors College from fall 2006 to the present, for his dedication to advancing the program and his untiring efforts on behalf of our Honors students. His commitment to UHC students is clearly evident in the success they have achieved and the outstanding academic opportunities offered by the College. On behalf of the University community, I am grateful to Dr. Downey for his dedicated service to Millersville University and wish him the best in his future endeavors.

Please join me in congratulating Dr. Thyrum on her appointment as Director of the University Honors College for Millersville University.