

NEWS RELEASE



Board Chair announces appointment of interim President for Luther College

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – April 30, 2024

The Luther College Board of Regents have selected and appointed Dr. Murray Knuttila as the interim President of Luther College from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025.

Dr. Knuttila is the former Vice President (Academic) and Provost of Brock University, and a former Associate Vice-President (Academic) at the University of Regina.

Born and raised in Saskatchewan, Dr. Knuttila's association with the University of Regina spanned more than 30 years. He was also a former Dean of Arts at the University Regina and professor in the Department of Sociology and Social Studies, a Research Faculty member in the Saskatchewan Population Health & Evaluation Research Unit and a Faculty Associate at Luther College. He is also a former member of the Luther College Board of Regents, having served from 2014-2020.

Dr. Knuttila also has considerable senior administration and governance experience outside the university sector. He was the chair of the Regina Qu'Appelle Regional Health Authority and received the University of Regina Alumni Award for Outstanding Public Service in 2007.

Knuttila received his B.A. honours and M.A. degrees in sociology from the University of Regina. His Ph.D. is from the University of Toronto. He has authored and edited a number of books, presented papers at national and international conferences and published articles on a variety of topics. His research interests include the impact of globalization on social development and politics in rural Canada, as well as issues relating to men and masculinities, healthcare delivery systems governance and population health.

Board Chair Greg Swanson says, "We are fortunate to have someone as familiar with Luther College and as experienced in university administration as Murray leading the College in the coming academic year. He will serve Luther College High School and Luther College at the University of Regina very well in the transitional days ahead."

Vice-Chair Dwight Nelson adds, "I've had the privilege of knowing and working with Murray for many years. His blend of experience, compassion and strong focus on those we serve will be a blessing to the entire Luther College community in the important year ahead."

Murray is also a member of Our Savior's Lutheran Church (ELCIC) in Regina. Murray and his wife, Dr. Wendee Kubik, have two adult children, two granddaughters and a grandson.

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Dr. Knuttila will take office following the resignation of the Rev. Dr. Marc Jerry. The Board wishes to thank the Rev. Dr. Jerry for his leadership of Luther College in the last four years. “He led Luther College through the COVID pandemic, prioritizing the health and safety of students, staff and faculty. The Rev. Dr. Jerry also led the College through a comprehensive, collaborative strategic planning process, and restructured and enhanced the College Leadership Group. Both of those actions continue to serve the long-term sustainability of the College,” added Greg Swanson, Board Chair.

About Luther College

Luther College, Regina operates a post-secondary campus federated with the University of Regina, and a historical independent high school accredited by the Saskatchewan Ministry of Education. Our vision is to make transformative change for a more grace-filled, just, and joyful world.

Media Inquiries:

Angela Bethune
Director of Communications
Luther College, Regina
angela.bethune@luthercollege.edu