

Hilbert's new provost making her mark

By Megan Tomaszewski
HAMBURG SUN CORRESPONDENT

Kristina M. Lantzky-Eaton has become proof that an individual's ideas and engagement matter more than their gender.

After a nationwide search, Hilbert College has named Lantzky-Eaton as provost and vice president for Academic Affairs, making her the first woman to hold the position in more than 20 years.

"It's really amazing," said Lantzky-Eaton, who served in the role on an interim basis for a year. "I hope to serve as a role model to all students and even my faculty and staff who want to move into administration and broaden their influence."

As chief academic officer, Lantzky-Eaton oversees all faculty, academic programs and student life, and reports directly to President Cynthia Zane.

Lantzky-Eaton is originally from Iowa, where she received her bachelor's degree in chemistry and physics from Wartburg College. She then earned her Ph.D. in physical chemistry from the University of Wyoming and moved to Rochester, where she worked at St. John Fisher College for 13 years in multiple positions, including as chemistry department chair.

She has also held community roles as vice president and president of the East Rochester Union Free School District Board and was a member of the High School Shared Decision Making Team in East Rochester.

Even though her background is in STEM – a cur-



Contributed photo

After a one-year stint as interim provost, Kristina Lantzky-Eaton will assume the role full-time at Hilbert.

riculum based on the idea of educating students in science, technology, engineering and mathematics – Lantzky-Eaton recognizes the importance of maintaining Hilbert's multi-disciplinary focus as a traditional liberal arts school.

"There's value to be had in those disciplines that value writing and expression in speech and thought," she said, adding that with a recent restructuring of the school's general education requirements, students will be exposed to a greater variety of subjects.

"As we go forward, we're starting to think about new programs and possibilities on campus that are inclusive and help students to understand why they chose a liberal arts school," she said.

Other projects that Lantzky-Eaton was involved

with in the past year include finalizing a new faculty handbook to "engage faculty and administration in a way that's thoughtful and meaningful," implementing a new online professor evaluation system for students, developing a Title III grant to expand the college's capacity to serve low-income students and restructuring the graduate studies department.

In addition, Lantzky-Eaton was able to coordinate a revised promotion and tenure process.

"Our faculty are professionals who work really hard in their field and do a lot of amazing work, so helping them document that and using that for promotions and appointment at different contract levels was just a great opportunity," she said.

As for future goals, Lantz-

ky-Eaton wants to focus on expanding the accessibility of "internships and engaged learning opportunities" for students. While Lantzky-Eaton said Hilbert graduates are already successful in gaining employment post-graduation, she stressed that gaining work experience early on helps students develop and maintain skills that allow them to retain employment.

"What we'd like to do is make it available to every student who comes to Hilbert to work in a field as close as possible to their major," she said.

She plans to continue cultivating programs and services for students with disabilities, as well as providing increased academic support for student athletes.

Lantzky-Eaton still looks after athletes outside of her professional position – she has three children: one hockey player and two swimmers. She is president of the Sea Dragons Swim Club and also enjoys camping, gardening and spending time outdoors.

Even with "a lot of hard work" ahead, Lantzky-Eaton is optimistic about the challenge.

"We're going to keep working with the faculty and staff to bring change to the institution," she said. "Good things are happening, and I just can't believe that I get to be a part of this. It's a wonderful opportunity."

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The Ovarian Cancer Project is conducting its fifth annual Geranium Sale Fundraiser. All proceeds from the sale go to providing support, mentoring and resources for women with ovarian cancer, as well as their families. It also provides to newly diagnosed women a comfort and hope tote filled with necessities for chemotherapy and a message of hope from fellow ovarian cancer sufferers.

Each order includes 10 flowering geranium plants in a pot for \$34.95. Special discounts are offered for businesses. Orders must be submitted by April 27 and pickup dates are May 12-13 at five locations, including in Hamburg. To order, visit www.ovariancancerproject.org or call 458-0382.

Town of Hamburg Lions Club in search of new members

The Town of Hamburg Lions Club is looking for new members to join the organization. Current members of the club will host an open house April 26 starting 6:30 p.m. at Butera's Craft Beer and Craft Pizzas on 32 Main St. in the Village of Hamburg to inform interested participants of what they do in the Town of Hamburg, Village of Blasdell, Village of Hamburg, Lake View and the Town of Eden.

Guests will be treated to pizza, chicken wings, salad and soft drinks. A cash bar will be available. To make reservations to attend the open house and learn more about the Town of Hamburg Lions Club, call Phil Durkin at 430-0019.

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