



For Immediate Release

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ACAD Announces Recipient of Award for Excellence in Academic Leadership

Raleigh, NC – September 30, 2021 – The ACAD Board of Directors is proud to announce the recipient of the fifth annual Award for Excellence in Academic Leadership: Dr. Ross Peterson-Veatch, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the College, Southwestern College. The award was established by ACAD to recognize individuals who exemplify excellence in academic leadership through shaping and supporting positive change on their campuses and in their communities.

As an academic leader, Dr. Peterson-Veatch has facilitated necessary and positive change throughout his career. Across his leadership roles, he has focused on improving systems, implementing fair and consistent practices, and advancing the institution's learning environment. Evidence of his commitment to academic excellence is visible at Goshen College and Southwestern College as he has led initiatives to innovate the curriculum and enhance faculty development. Additionally, Dr. Peterson-Veatch has worked to go beyond the walls of higher education to promote positive change in external communities. While at Goshen College, he established the Elkhart County P-16 Education Advisory Group. This multi-institutional, cross sector organization held monthly meetings of higher education leaders and the superintendents of all seven Elkhart County (IN) school districts. Through this work, the county's system of education was better equipped to serve the diverse communities present in each school district and to engage with the private sector as a means of supporting career readiness. These efforts not only reflect on his character as a person but as a change agent inside and out of higher education.

“Dr. Ross Peterson-Veatch is a dedicated, passionate, and trusted academic leader who exemplifies the definition of a servant-leader in all of his actions. He has worked thoughtfully to advance innovative approaches to faculty development, curricular design, and collaboration throughout his career. Always quick to strike up a conversation with a faculty member or student, Dr. Peterson-Veatch works to truly listen and understand in developing solutions. His creative vision, commitment to excellence and warm personality, make him an outstanding academic leader.” shares Dr. Kenneth Newbold, Provost and Chief Academic Officer at Benedictine University and the nominator for this Award.

“I am deeply honored to receive this award.” writes Dr. Peterson-Veatch. “Our leadership in the institutions we serve matters a lot, and to have ACAD colleagues around the country to turn to for advice and support has been a steady source of success for me and the teams I have worked with at Indiana University, Goshen College, and Southwestern College. I am truly grateful for how much I have learned from my time with ACAD, and am humbled by this recognition.”

Inside and outside the academy, Dr. Peterson-Veatch truly embodies all that the ACAD Board wishes to promote and recognize as a recipient of this award. The presentation will take place during the ACAD Annual Meeting Keynote Luncheon on Thursday, February 24 in St. Petersburg, FL.

Founded in 1945 ACAD is an individual membership organization dedicated to the professional development of academic leaders. Recognizing that provosts, deans, and other academic administrators undertake academic leadership as their “second discipline,” ACAD’s mission is to assist these leaders as they advance in careers dedicated to the ideals of liberal education. Information about ACAD membership, programs, and publications can be found by visiting www.acad.org