



# University of Pittsburgh

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**Patricia E. Beeson**  
Provost  
Senior Vice Chancellor

April 28, 2017

Dear Colleagues:

Together with Chancellor Gallagher, I am pleased to announce that Dr. Kathleen M. Blee has accepted my offer to become the Bettye J. and Ralph E. Bailey Dean of the Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences and Dean of the College of General Studies beginning August 15, 2017. Dr. Blee succeeds N. John Cooper, who served as Dean for 19 years.

Dr. Blee is a Distinguished Professor of Sociology in the Dietrich School, and brings to the deanship a collaborative leadership style grounded in the core values of academic excellence, innovation, and diversity, along with a deep understanding of the School's strengths and opportunities. As such, I am confident in her ability to lead the Dietrich School in developing a clear, comprehensive, and inclusive vision for the next chapter in its history.

Kathy exemplifies a commitment to excellence that will shape the continued advancement of the School and the University. The University of Pittsburgh has recognized her exceptional contributions with all three of our major teaching and scholarship awards – the Chancellor's Distinguished Teaching Award, the Provost's Award for Excellence in Mentoring, and the Chancellor's Distinguished Research Award.

Her record of leadership demonstrates a commitment to supporting and advancing excellence throughout the faculty, staff, and student body, and positions Dr. Blee to build upon the momentum that the Dietrich School has developed in recent years. Prior to becoming Associate Dean for Graduate Studies and Research in the Dietrich School in 2012, Kathy served as Chair of the Department of Sociology, and Director of the Women's Studies Program. She was also an Associate Dean at the University of Kentucky, where she was on the faculty before coming to Pitt in 1996. In each of these positions, Kathy has earned the respect of her colleagues as she has worked with them to develop and advance a compelling vision of academic excellence and inclusion.

Through her extensive service on University-wide committees (often in a leadership role), Dr. Blee has gained a broad understanding of the University and the opportunities we have before us. She has served on the University Research Council, the University Council on Graduate Studies, the Distinguished Faculty Selection Committee, the Provost's Advisory Committee on Women's Concerns, the Provost's Advisory Council on Instructional Excellence, and the Board of Trustee's Affirmative Action Committee.

Dr. Blee has a broad understanding of outstanding academic scholarship across disciplines and is a renowned scholar herself. Her research focuses on social movements, particularly the role of gender, race, and space and place on such movements. The University of Notre Dame's Center for the Study of Social Movements recognized her with the 2016 John D. McCarthy Award for Lifetime Achievement in the Scholarship of Social Movements. Her book Women of the Klan: Racism and Gender in the 1920s, was named a centennial book by the University of California Press, and selected as an Outstanding Book by the Gustavus Myers Center for the Study of Human Rights. Her most recent book, Democracy in the Making: How Activist Groups Form, received the Virginia Hodgkinson Research Prize from the Association for Research on Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Action, and the Charles Tilly Award for Best Book from the Collective Behavior and Social Movements Section of the American Sociological Association. She has written or edited five other books, and has an additional book in press. She has also authored over 90 articles, which have appeared in top journals including *Annual Review of Sociology*, *American Journal of Sociology*, and *Sociological Methods & Research*.

Kathy is committed to fostering the Dietrich School's mission to create and exchange knowledge across the liberal arts disciplines, and to educate and inspire graduate and undergraduate students while serving communities within and beyond Pitt. Her vision is well matched with our aspirations for the School and the University.

Please join me in welcoming Dr. Blee as the next Dean of the Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences and the College of General Studies. I have great confidence that her leadership will build upon the School's current momentum and help to propel the University of Pittsburgh to new levels of excellence.

Sincerely,



Patricia E. Beeson