



University of Pittsburgh

Office of the Provost and Senior Vice Chancellor

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Patricia E. Beeson
Provost
Senior Vice Chancellor

June 2, 2017

Dear Colleagues:

Together with Chancellor Gallagher, I am pleased to announce that Dr. Brian A. Primack has accepted my offer to become the next Dean of the University Honors College (UHC) and holder of the Bernice L. and Morton S. Lerner Chair beginning July 1, 2017. Dr. Primack will bring an impressive breadth and depth of knowledge and experience to the leadership of the UHC. I am confident that our most talented and motivated undergraduate students will thrive under his leadership and mentorship.

A remarkably broad and interdisciplinary scholar and thinker, Dr. Primack studied English and Mathematics as an undergraduate at Yale, where he graduated magna cum laude and was recognized as the Commencement Day Speaker for the Class of 1991. He earned his Master of Education in Human Development and Psychology from Harvard, spent time teaching in Niger and at the University of Maryland, and served as Dean of Students for a large residential program for highly talented and motivated secondary school students at Wellesley College, before beginning his medical studies at Emory University.

Dr. Primack is currently a Professor of Medicine, Pediatrics, and Clinical and Translational Science at the University of Pittsburgh's School of Medicine, as well as the Leo H. Crippe Endowed Chair in Patient Care. He serves as Assistant Vice Chancellor for Research on Health and Society in the Schools of Health Sciences and Director of the interdisciplinary Center for Research on Media, Technology, and Health. He is an experienced patient care provider, who has worked in Student Health Services at Pitt and Carnegie Mellon University, at the Matilda Theiss Health Center, and at UPMC hospitals; and is an active researcher whose most recent work focuses the effects of media messages and new technologies on a wide variety of health behaviors.

His early experiences as an educator and his close collaborations with students have informed his teaching and mentoring in his career. Since joining the Pitt faculty, Dr. Primack has been engaged in the Honors College, teaching courses and advising student research projects. A number of his undergraduate students have published their work in leading scholarly journals and have been recognized for the quality of their research by academic associations such as the Society of Behavioral Medicine and the Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine. He was twice recognized as an Outstanding Medical Student Research Mentor at the School of Medicine, and received an Innovation in Education award to develop and implement a series of interactive experiences for medical students around health literacy and patient-provider communication.

A hallmark of Dr. Primack's medical career has been his unwavering desire to improve the human condition through direct service, health promotion, and community engagement. He will bring the same compassion for the whole person to the UHC and has a particular desire to support students holistically by focusing on emotional, personal, and social growth, in addition to intellectual development.

Thanks to awards from the National Cancer Institute and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Dr. Primack completed a PhD in Clinical and Translational Science at Pitt. Because the program is highly interdisciplinary, it allowed Dr. Primack to integrate work in social science areas such as sociology and psychology into his clinical work. His personal interests include music performance and composition and he is an actor in community theater. He unquestionably embraces the full spectrum of liberal arts disciplines and is committed to increasing the presence of fields currently underrepresented within the UHC.

Dr. Primack embraces the open nature of the University Honors College and is enthusiastic about enhancing opportunities and experiences for both current and incoming students. An active interdisciplinary collaborator in his own work, he looks to bring a renewed focus on partnerships across the University and the Pittsburgh community. He is also committed to maintaining the culture of support and collegiality that has defined the UHC since its inception.

Under Dr. Primack's leadership, I am confident that the University Honors College will continue to serve as the center of gravity for our most academically engaged and curious undergraduate students and as a hub of intellectual activity for our entire university community. His broad and inclusive vision is well-matched to our aspirations for the UHC and the University.

Please join me in welcoming Dr. Primack as the next Dean of the University Honors College. I know that his enthusiasm and experience will be an asset to the UHC and will help the University of Pittsburgh continue to be a leader in undergraduate education.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Patricia E. Beeson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Patricia E. Beeson