



UNIVERSITY OF  
**NOTRE DAME**

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January 17, 2023

Dear Colleagues,

It gives me great pleasure to announce that Jeffrey (Jeff) Rhoads, a leading mechanical engineering researcher and pioneer in engineering education, has been appointed vice president for research, effective July 1. He will also hold an appointment as a full professor in the Department of Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering.

Jeff comes to Notre Dame from Purdue University, where he currently serves as executive director of the Purdue Institute for National Security and as a professor in the School of Mechanical Engineering. He previously served as the director of the Ray W. Herrick Laboratories, associate director of the Purdue Energetics Research Center and director of practice for the Mechanical Engineering Education Research Center at Purdue. He has attracted more than \$75 million in sponsored research funding across his various academic roles – garnering extensive support from the Department of Defense, the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Energy, the National Science Foundation and industry.

Recognized extensively for excellence in his discipline and teaching, Jeff is the recipient of the inaugural American Society of Mechanical Engineers' C. D. Mote Jr., Early Career Award, the National Science Foundation CAREER Award and the American Society for Engineering Education's Ferdinand P. Beer and E. Russell Johnston, Jr., Outstanding New Mechanics Educator Award as well as the Charles B. Murphy Award, Purdue's highest undergraduate teaching honor. He holds a number of patents and is the author of more than 150 peer-reviewed publications, including a widely used undergraduate textbook.

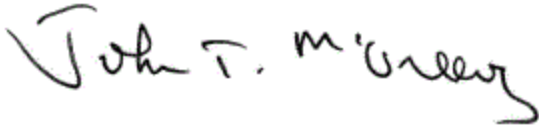
Jeff is a fellow of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers and a member of the American Society for Engineering Education and the National Defense Industry Association. He earned a bachelor's degree, a master's degree, and a doctoral degree – each in mechanical engineering – from Michigan State University.

The search committee members – Joshua Cameron, Patricia Clark, William Evans, David Go, Christine Maziar, Nosang Myung, Virginia Rodriguez, and Jennifer Tank – did an outstanding job in identifying and reviewing candidates for the position. They selected a visionary and a problem-solver who has successfully led research programs in academia and the public sector, developing crucial partnerships along the way.

Jeff is perfectly suited to guide this next phase of the University's research enterprise. We have much to build on in Notre Dame Research, due in large part, to the work of [Bob Bernhard](#) and the talented individuals who comprise NDR. I cannot thank Bob enough for his years of service and his willingness to stay in the role until we found a successor.

Please join me in welcoming Jeff to Notre Dame. I know that you'll give him the same support that NDR has enjoyed these last few years as they continue to build a greater Notre Dame.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John T. McGreevy". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

John T. McGreevy  
Charles and Jill Fischer Provost  
Francis A. McAnaney Professor of History