

OFFICE OF THE PROVOST

A Message from John McGreevy

January 20, 2026



Spring semester update

Dear Colleagues,

I hope your spring semester is off to a promising—if snowy—start. I write to share a few updates from the Provost's Office.

I was inspired by President Rev. Robert A. Dowd's [message to campus](#) last week, reminding us that “to listen and to engage thoughtfully with the ideas, perspectives, and experiences of others lies at the heart of our common life at a Catholic university dedicated to faith and scholarship.” Modeling this engagement with ideas—even ideas quite different than our own—is at the core of who we are and should be as a university community.

As you saw in the [2025 Year-End Strategic Framework Update](#), we are continuing to make significant progress in advancing Notre Dame as the leading global Catholic research university, even during a tumultuous time for higher education. Although we are not without challenges of our own, we also have some strategic advantages. We have resolved to conduct a full slate of faculty searches at a time when many of our peers have slowed or even halted faculty hiring. In some of those searches, we are seeing upticks of as much as 75% in the number of applicants when compared to similar searches conducted last year. Recruiting and

hiring superb faculty aligned with the University's mission is one of the most important things we do as an institution. As we enter the peak of hiring season, I am grateful to those of you engaged in this important work.

I've been fielding an increasing number of questions about generative AI, a topic the University is addressing on multiple fronts, from research to teaching and learning. We understand there are deep concerns, including the impact of AI on authentic learning, environmental sustainability, and human dignity and flourishing. We also understand that these technologies may present significant opportunities for research, classroom innovation, student support, and many other areas.

My hope is that we will approach AI with the right mix of enthusiasm and caution and that we will educate our students to be responsible and effective users of this technology because it is likely that they will continue to encounter AI in their personal and professional lives. As you may have seen last month, Notre Dame is poised to lead national discussions around the ethics of AI, [fueled by our recent grant from Lilly Endowment Inc.](#) to the Ethics Initiative, led by Meghan Sullivan. I am also grateful to the [Data, AI, and Computing Initiative](#), led by Nitesh Chawla, for its work on both research and curricular matters, and I look forward to sharing their work with the campus soon. Meanwhile, [Notre Dame Learning](#) is a great place to begin exploring the resources available on campus, including the [Lab for AI in Teaching and Learning](#).

Personnel updates

As you may know, the Provost's Office performs periodic reviews of its senior leaders. We recently conducted a review of Vice President and Associate Provost for Internationalization [Michael Pippenger](#). I am pleased to share that Fr. Dowd has approved an additional term for Michael, who has graciously agreed to continue to serve. I am grateful to Michael for his superb work, which is vitally important to Notre Dame's mission as a leading global Catholic research university.

We also had a couple of transitions of responsibility on the Provost's Office team over the Christmas break. We welcomed [Rylee Kenney](#) to a new role in the office as my special assistant. Rylee succeeds Chloe Leach, who now works in University Relations. Additionally, [Bridget Lautaru](#) joined the office as the faculty affairs program manager, serving as Maura Ryan's principal staff aide and as a key team member on procedures that support faculty and academic affairs.

Following Vice President and Associate Provost [Margaret Meserve's appointment](#) as Edward H. Arnold Dean of the Hesburgh Libraries in November, we have begun transitioning academic space and support duties to Vice President and Associate Provost [David Go](#). That transition will be complete by the end of the academic year.

Upcoming opportunities

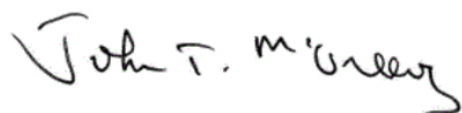
Our office will continue the **Connections Series** with three events this semester. The series is designed to bring Notre Dame faculty, staff, graduate students, and postdocs together to explore interdisciplinary research initiatives and build scholarly community. Mark your calendars for the dates below and keep an eye out for email invitations to each event. All three sessions will be held from 4:30–6 p.m. in 215/216 McKenna Hall.

- [Feb. 3: Connect with the Data, AI, and Computing Initiative](#)
- [March 25: Connect with the Global Catholic Research Initiative](#)
- [April 27: Connect with the Veldman Family Psychology Clinic](#)

Nominations are now open for the **[2026 University Faculty Awards](#)**, which recognize faculty excellence in research, teaching, and service. The deadline is Thursday, Feb. 19. Please take this opportunity to help us celebrate our most outstanding faculty. Nominate a colleague and encourage your students to nominate professors who have played exceptional roles in their Notre Dame experience.

All best wishes on your teaching and research this semester. I appreciate your dedication to our shared mission and all that you do for Notre Dame.

Sincerely,



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



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