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**Subject:** Provost Priorities + LAS Next Steps

**Date:** Monday, January 23, 2023 at 3:12:01 PM Central Standard Time



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January 23, 2023

Dear Campus Colleagues,

Congratulations on getting the 160th year of classes launched! As we move forward, the priorities for the year in the provost's office are:

1. Restructure the way the provost's office works.
2. Create leadership and talent development within academic affairs as part of ongoing succession planning.
3. Achieve excellence in daily operations across all areas of academics.
4. Establish ongoing academic program review processes.
5. Look at how we can continue to evolve academic offerings to best serve students.

The first step in achieving operational excellence will be restructuring the College of Liberal Arts + Sciences to drive efficiency and focus for our academic programs. To lead this effort, I am pleased to announce the promotion of **Amy Sage Webb-Baza** and **James Ehlers** to assistant deans in the College of Liberal Arts + Sciences.

Amy is a Roe R. Cross Distinguished Professor of English, director of the Creative Writing Program and director of the Donald Reichardt Center for Publishing and Literary Arts. James is the Don and Mary Glaser Distinguished Professor of Engraving Arts and chair of the Department of Art.

In the dean's office, Amy and James will be focused on facilitating a conversation about the proposed reorganization model and soliciting feedback from across the college.

For more information on this project and Amy's and James' leadership of it, please see the [news release on the ESU website](#).

I will communicate more soon to announce an acting dean of LAS and share additional changes that will enable us to achieve the priorities outlined above.

I look forward to working with you. We have an exciting year ahead.

With ESU Pride,



R. Brent Thomas, Ph.D.

Provost + Vice President for Academic Affairs

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