

UT Innovation Enterprises announces interim CEO, looks to next five years

By Jon Strunk

Rhonda Wingfield, director of budget and planning at The University of Toledo, has been named interim CEO of UT Innovation Enterprises (UTIE), officials announced Wednesday.



Wingfield

Wingfield will serve in both roles until a permanent CEO is determined.

Joyce McBride, former UT director of budget and planning who is transitioning

to flexible work hours as she moves toward retirement and spending more time with her family, has been named assistant director of budget and planning.

“Rhonda has more than 20 years of financial management experience in the public sector, industry and in start-up organizations, and has been highly involved in Innovation Enterprises operations during

her tenure at UT,” said C. William Fall, chair of the UTIE Board of Directors. “As we plan for UTIE’s next five years, we are fortunate to have Rhonda’s strategic mind and detailed financial knowledge during this interim period.”

Wingfield, who has overseen the finances of UTIE since shortly after her arrival at UT in 2010, will assume the role created following the separation of the chair and CEO positions, one of several recommendations made following a six-month review of UTIE and its processes, led by board member Bill McCreary.

Given the success of UTIE following its establishment in 2009, Wingfield said she was excited to accept the post, though she acknowledged that the nationwide addition of economic development as part of universities’ missions was a cultural change that hasn’t come easily to everyone.

“We have a very promising portfolio, which is still very young. During the years I’ve worked with UTIE, I’ve been incredibly impressed with the innovation and potential of these start-up companies,” Wingfield said.

“Some of our society’s most impressive inventions and advancements have come from university research, and we cannot allow our fear that an individual idea might not pan out to stop us from investing in people and ideas that may strengthen our region economically,” she said.

UT President Lloyd Jacobs said the goal of cultural change encompassed the entire community.

“We have no intention of leaving the next ‘dorm-room business success story’ only to the Harvards or the Stanfords of the world,” Jacobs said. “Our students and our faculty are accomplishing great things in both social and business entrepreneurship. And it is our job to explain to the UT family, to the media, and to the overall community that prudent investment in the ideas of the UT faculty and entrepreneurs is one of the surest routes to long-term and sustained economic growth in northwest Ohio.”

Fall emphasized that stringent due diligence and investment procedures remain in place. With this type of innovation-based economic development, it is clearly a fact

that not all such early-stage investments succeed, he said.

“But in the case of Innovation Enterprises, this is an incredibly strong showing for an investment portfolio of this type at this early point in UTIE’s lifespan. Like a mutual fund, you invest in a wide range of organizations knowing that even if some underperform, over the long term the fund as a whole will be successful,” Fall said.

Fall expressed his thanks to all who have worked so hard to make UTIE a success in the first five years: board members, researchers and faculty, students and support staff. He made special mention of McCreary’s contribution, a sentiment Jacobs echoed.

“The University of Toledo and UT Innovation Enterprises is so fortunate to work with a person of such superior personal character, intellect and experience as Bill McCreary. He will play an important role as Bill Fall and Rhonda Wingfield lead UT and this community to continued economic successes,” Jacobs said.

National assessment expert on campus this week

By Aimee Portala

Dr. Barbara Walvoord, a national student learning assessment expert, is visiting The University of Toledo to help continue the improvement of UT’s assessment processes.



Walvoord

In conjunction with the Office of Assessment, Accreditation and Program Review and the University Assessment Committee, Walvoord will conduct a two-day workshop and discussion for various department chairs, teams and faculty members from a variety of academic disciplines to further develop existing

assessment tools and procedures.

Walvoord will be the keynote speaker at the Assessment Appreciation Luncheon Wednesday, April 2. Excellence in Assessment Awards for 2012-13 also will be presented at the event.

“Inviting a nationally recognized expert in student learning assessment will provide UT with an outsider’s perspective on our current assessment process,” said Dr. Alana Malik, learning outcomes assessment

specialist in the Office of Assessment, Accreditation and Program Review. “Her approach to assessment is direct and focused on obtaining meaningful results for faculty and staff members. Her visit will help to build on the Imagine 2017 strategic goal of strengthening student learning assessment practices throughout campus.”

Walvoord is a professor emerita at the University of Notre Dame. She has consulted or led workshops at more than 400 institutions of higher education throughout the United States. She covers topics that include assessment, teaching and learning, and writing across the curriculum.

She is the founding director of four faculty development programs at Central College in Iowa, Loyola College in Maryland, the University of Cincinnati and the University of Notre Dame. Each program has received national recognition.

“We hope that the campus community gains a better appreciation for and knowledge of how to develop and sustain strong assessment practices that complement and encourage excellence in teaching and support for students,” Malik said.

For more information, contact Malik at alana.malik@utoledo.edu.

Student

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are important to women physicians and women patients,” Payne said. “I enjoy this work because as an aspiring ob-gyn and female physician, I have an opportunity to help develop smart and compassionate health policy in areas that will directly affect my medical practice and the patients I care for.”

Payne was selected by the section at-large through electronic ballots and emails. She plans to run again to serve a second term as delegate.

“She has the rare and wonderful combination of not being afraid to push the envelope in suggesting policy initiatives that may not be popular in all circles while also understanding political limits that exist and appreciating the importance of incremental change when working toward large, long-term goals,” Reardon said.

Payne is no stranger to health-care policy. In 2012, she completed an internship with the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists in Washington, D.C. She said the experience gave her a better understanding of how to more effectively advocate for women’s health.

In the future, Payne seeks to ensure all women have access to the health services they need, and that legislation acts as a catalyst, not a barrier, to women receiving that care.

“As a future ob-gyn, providing safe and comprehensive care to my patients is of the highest priority,” Payne said. “I want to be able to follow best practice guidelines when caring for my patients, and much legislation surrounding reproductive health — specifically around abortion — currently prevents me from doing so.”