



Announcing the new dean of the School of Dentistry

From: Executive Vice President and Provost Rachel Croson

Mon, June 7, 2021



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

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Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost

Dear Dentistry faculty, staff, and students,

I am pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Keith A. Mays as dean of the University of Minnesota School of Dentistry, pending approval by the Board of Regents at their June meeting and effective June 21, 2021.

Dr. Mays joined the faculty in 2015 as associate professor in the Department of Restorative Sciences. He served as Associate Dean of Academic Affairs until he was appointed interim dean in May 2020. As Associate Dean, he oversaw the school's educational programs and worked collaboratively with faculty, staff, and students to advance excellence in all dental disciplines, especially focusing on patient care, curriculum, teaching, faculty development, and student support.

Dr. Mays has also served as Division Director of Prosthodontics at East Carolina University School of Dental Medicine, and as assistant director of the University of Maryland General Practice Residency Program. His academic career has also included teaching in preclinical and clinical prosthodontics, student mentoring and advising, and private faculty practice. Dr. Mays serves as an officer of the board of directors for the American Dental Education Association, among other professional leadership roles.

As dean, Dr. Mays will be the chief executive officer and chief academic officer of the School and will collaborate broadly to advance the School as a national leader in dental education. Guided by Dentistry's strategic plan, and the strategic priorities of the University, he will collaborate with faculty, students, and staff to preserve and enhance the excellence of the School. He will also continue developing University partnerships with key stakeholders to serve the educational, clinical, research, service, and patient care programs of the School.

Dr. Mays will collaborate with other campus deans to advance the educational mission of the University and to develop joint educational and research activities. In particular, he will be an important partner with deans across the health science and cognate areas of the University to develop and expand efforts to improve health through enhanced integration across the health sciences in clinical work, research, and interprofessional education.

Dr. Mays' appointment as dean follows an internal University search by an eight-member search committee and a public interview process that engaged internal and external constituencies. His academic leadership and governance experience within the school, and deep relationships within and beyond the school, have been important assets during his tenure as interim dean, and generated broad support across the school for his vision and leadership throughout the past year.

I am confident, as are his colleagues, that Dr. Mays has the leadership skills, administrative experience, and academic strengths to provide excellent leadership for Dentistry. Please join me in thanking Dr. Mays for his service in the interim role over the past year and in

welcoming him as the new dean.

I thank search committee chair Dean Lynda Welage of the College of Pharmacy and the committee members for their service. I also want to express my appreciation to the many faculty, staff, and students—and our stakeholders—who took time to provide feedback on the public interviews. Your participation and input were pivotal in this process, and I thank you for your ongoing support of the School of Dentistry and the University.

Sincerely yours,

Rachel T.A. Croson
Executive Vice President and Provost

This email was sent to 6/7/2021 to all faculty, staff, students, and residents in the School of Dentistry by the Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost.

