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Salus University Names New Dean to New College



Dr. James Konopack, dean of the College of Health Sciences, Education and Rehabilitation, Salus University.

Elkins Park, Pa. — Salus University recently appointed James Konopack, PhD, as dean of the University's College of Health Sciences, Education and Rehabilitation (CHER).

Upon starting his new role Sept. 15, Dr. Konopack became the first official dean of the University's newly formed CHER, which includes Occupational Therapy (OT), Speech-Language Pathology (SLP), Physician Assistant Studies (PA), Post-Baccalaureate, Blindness and Low Vision Studies (BLVS) and Biomedicine programs.

"We are thrilled to have Dr. Konopack join the Salus team," Salus President **Michael Mittelman, OD '80, MPH, MBA, FAAO, FACHE**, said. "Jim's broad experience in health science,

interprofessional education and educational leadership will augment the talented academic leadership team that's already in place.”

A longtime educator, holding leadership positions at various institutions throughout his career, Dr. Konopack still considers the start of his deanship at Salus a return engagement to his wheelhouse – health sciences.

“My background has been in the health sciences, particularly exercise science and health. I've just had this brief sojourn into the world of a business school for the past couple of years, so this is very much coming back home to the health sciences,” Dr. Konopack said.

For the past two years, Dr. Konopack — who earned his PhD in Kinesiology with an emphasis in Exercise Psychology from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign — has been the associate dean in the School of Business at New Jersey City University (NJCU) in Jersey City, New Jersey. His duties included strategic planning, development and implementation of school policies, budget management, staff management and leadership of accreditation-related activities.

Prior to NJCU, he held several positions at Monmouth University in West Long Branch, New Jersey, including associate dean of the Marjorie K. Unterberg School of Nursing and Health Studies, department chairperson, and the NCAA Facility Athletics Representative (FAR).

“I am very excited that Dr. Konopack is joining Salus as inaugural dean of the new College of Health Sciences, Education and Rehabilitation,” Barry Eckert, PhD, provost and vice president of Academic Affairs, said. “His skills and experience will be a tremendous asset to the new college. I look forward to working with him.”

In addition to providing leadership to the new college in the throes of a pandemic, in his new position at Salus, Dr. Konopack will focus on the launch of an orthotics and prosthetics program, along with alumni engagement and fundraising initiatives.

“The opportunity to work with graduate students and the faculty who are teaching and training and mentoring them, is special,” Dr. Konopack said. “To work with folks who are really, truly doing things that will benefit the health and well-being of others is just fantastic. It's something you can really, truly feel good about. And, I'm excited to get back into that.”

About Salus University

Salus University, founded as the Pennsylvania College of Optometry in 1919, today is a diversified, globally recognized professional academic center of learning that offers a wide range of degree programs in the professions of Optometry, Audiology, Physician Assistant, Blindness and Low Vision Studies, Biomedicine, Occupational Therapy and Speech-Language Pathology. Salus operates four clinical facilities in Philadelphia and Montgomery counties that provide highly specialized vision, hearing and balance, and speech-language pathology services. The University has more than 1,200 students, and more than 14,000 alumni worldwide. For more information, please visit www.salus.edu.