

# MARIST

## Dean of the School of Communication and the Arts

**MARIST COLLEGE**  
Poughkeepsie, New York



### *The Opportunity*

Marist College seeks an innovative, collegial, and entrepreneurial dean to lead the School of Communication and the Arts (SCA). The next dean will have the opportunity to guide a community of dedicated and talented faculty, staff and students. As the school's chief academic and administrative officer, the dean oversees ten undergraduate programs and two graduate degrees. The school is comprised of five departments, 47 full-time faculty, 17 full-time staff (including an associate and assistant dean), and approximately 70 part-time faculty, 1,400 undergraduate students, and 75 graduate students. The school is set on Marist's main campus in the historic Hudson River Valley of New York, with a branch campus in the rich cultural center of Florence, Italy and online.

### ***THE SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATION AND THE ARTS***

SCA offers a wide range of programs across its departments of Communication (including concentrations in Sports Communication, Journalism, Public Relations, Advertising and Communication Studies) Fashion Design, Fashion Merchandising (including concentrations in Business, Product Development and Promotion); Art History; Digital Media; Games and Emerging Media; Film, Television and Media Arts; Music; Conservation Studies; and Interior Design. The school offers an online Master of Arts degree in Marketing Communication as well as two 5-year Dual Degrees: Bachelor of Science in Fashion Merchandising with a Fashion Promotion

Concentration and a Master of Arts in Marketing Communication, as well as a Bachelor of Arts in Communication and Master of Arts in Marketing Communication.

In addition, more than 80% of the students in the school engage in programs abroad, with study sites that include Florence, Dublin, Paris, London, and Madrid.

### ***Faculty***

Possessing significant academic and artistic credentials along with extensive professional experience, the School's faculty are accomplished individuals, deeply dedicated to the education and preparation of students. The faculty are comprised of 47 full-time faculty members and approximately 70 part-time faculty; they are supported by 17 full-time staff (including an associate dean and an assistant dean) and serve 1,400 undergraduate students and 75 graduate students. The members of Marist's faculty share their knowledge and expertise with students, mentoring and encouraging them, challenging them to think and create in new ways, collaborating with them in the school's studios, labs and classrooms, and helping them to become career ready. Countless alumnae/I reflect back on the significant impact their professors had and continue to have on their lives. The faculty's own substantive pursuits reflect a dedication to academic excellence and to their own development as scholars and artists. Each and every day, Marist's faculty prove that not only can outstanding teaching, scholarly, and creative production go hand-in-hand, but that great teachers have a lasting impact on students' lives.



### ***Facilities***

The Lowell Thomas Communications Center and Steel Plant Studios serve as the academic home for SCA students and faculty. The newly renovated Steel Plant houses the departments of Fashion and Art and Digital Media. Key spaces in that facility include digital labs, fashion studios, the MakerLab, a fashion exhibition gallery, the art gallery, the MPorium retail laboratory, and the Winter Garden. [Learn more about the Steel Plant >>](#)

The Lowell Thomas Communications Center, named in memory of the legendary broadcast pioneer who received an honorary degree from Marist in 1981, was renovated in 2014. The building houses television studios, video editing labs, computer labs, classrooms, faculty offices, and collaborative workspaces. It is also home to the Media Center, which supports the use of audio and video instructional technologies to enrich the learning experiences of Marist students across all disciplines, as well as [The Center for Sports Communication](#) and [The Center for Social Media](#).

### ***Experiential Learning Opportunities***

The School offers valuable experiential learning opportunities that actively engage students through a

strong college-to-career path that puts theory into practice. In these courses, students are taught to think critically, communicate effectively, and create work of the highest quality. These learning opportunities include management of on-campus television and radio stations, a public relations agency, and sports reporting across a variety of media. Some highlights:

**The Center for Sports Communication** offers a range of opportunities for students to explore the burgeoning field of sports communication, from the perspectives of *Center Field*, the student-run sports publication, to original student-produced podcasts. Students also produce original research projects addressing pressing issues in the role of sports media.

**The Center for Social Media** offers training in social media listening, engagement, influence, and analytics, where students learn industry-leading practices to enhance their professional skill set.

**The MakerLab**, located in Marist's Steel Plant, offers state-of-the-art technology for students of all majors and years to collaborate, create, design, innovate, and learn.

**The Media Center** provides faculty and staff members with audio-visual services that complement and enrich multiple activities at Marist College, from special events to classroom presentations. Facilities and services include television studios, non-linear editing, duplication, and conversion. The Media Center also produces corporate, informational, and educational video programs. The Center also supports

*TelePresence*, a next generation video collaboration technology that transforms the way geographically dispersed people work and communicate by creating the feeling of being in the same room during a meeting. The Marist TelePresence Room is located in the Hancock Center and includes a boardroom style table that seats six participants across from the remote participants displayed on 65-inch plasma screens.

**A wide variety of student-run clubs and organizations** provide additional avenues for students to pursue their interests and enhance their studies. Among these are Marist Fashion Inc., the National Retail Federation Student Association, the Runway of Dreams Foundation, MCTV, Red Fox Films, and *The Circle*, Marist's student newspaper. Clubs and related organizations afford students significant professional experiences under the guidance of dedicated



faculty, offering students critical and unparalleled access to leaders in communication and the arts.

## *Points of Pride*

**North Road Communications (NRC)** is Marist College's student-run Integrated Marketing Communications (IMC) firm dedicated to providing publicity services for non-profit community clients and providing hands-on, experiential learning opportunities for students. As of Spring 2023, NRC is one of the largest student-run IMC firms in the country with 88 members. NRC maintains a community client roster of about 15 organizations.

**MPorium**, a boutique run by students enrolled in the Fashion Retail Entrepreneurship course, serves as a live retail laboratory that provides students with hands-on experience across all facets of the fashion business, equipping them with valuable skills for future career opportunities.

**The Silver Needle Runway** features garments designed and realized by senior fashion design



students, presented in a professional runway setting that showcases expertise, professionalism, and creativity. Students enrolled in the Fashion Show Production course annually produce the Silver Needle Runway show. Through project-based learning teams, students manage all aspects involved in effectively producing this endeavor.

**The Marist College Art Gallery** has been an integral component of the Marist community for years. Located in the Steel Plant, the gallery functions as an essential teaching tool for Marist



students. While the gallery features the work of local and visiting artists from around the world as well as Marist's faculty, it is heavily student focused. The gallery is also where students learn how to mount an exhibition and all the attendant work that goes with such an endeavor.

Students in the School of Communication and the Arts also participate in collaborative projects with the

**Marist Institute for Public Opinion**, one of the nation’s premier independent survey research centers.

**The School also lays claim to an outstanding internship program**, offering students significant placements in top communication, fashion, marketing, advertising, and design firms.

## ***ABOUT MARIST***

Located on the banks of the historic Hudson River and at its Florence, Italy campus, Marist College is a comprehensive, independent institution grounded in the liberal arts with an emphasis on pre-professional training.

Marist is an institution on the rise. The College has new presidential and academic leadership; a newly launched and ambitious strategic plan that will carry Marist up to and through its centennial celebration in 2029; modern new teaching facilities; and consistent accolades for academic excellence.

This is an institution committed to its faculty and investing in resources to support academic excellence. The start of the 2023-24 academic year saw the arrival of 37 new full-time faculty and 57 new part-time faculty, and the hiring momentum continues as the College is in the midst of launching searches for more than 30 additional full-time faculty across the institution this academic year. Marist’s roughly 225 full-time and 330 part-time faculty members work across six academic schools to provide a personalized education, where students tailor their living and learning experiences to what sparks their passions and prepares them for lifelong success. Long a secular institution governed by an independent board of trustees, the College acknowledges its founding by the Marist Brothers as an important part of its history.

***“Marist is dedicated to helping students develop the intellect, character, and skills required for enlightened, ethical, and productive lives in the global community of the 21st century.”***  
***-Marist College Mission Statement***

Marist offers the power and resources of a global university delivered with the care and personal attention of a mid-sized liberal arts college. The College provides top-rated academics, world-class facilities, and a vibrant and inclusive culture to help students unlock their full potential. The College educates 5,475 traditional undergraduate students, 989 graduate students, 248 adult continuing education students, and 466 high school students who take Marist courses for credit. These students come from 44 different states and 52 different countries, making Marist a lively and diverse community of students and scholars.

With a stunning 242-acre riverside campus located a 90-minute train ride from New York City, Marist is serene and pastoral, yet plugged into one of the chief economic and cultural centers of the world. Marist encourages its students to broaden their horizons by exploring the world through its nationally recognized study abroad programs. At the same time, rooted in its commitment to service, the College remains deeply engaged with its surrounding communities,

offering targeted programs to local adult and non-traditional students.

Marist is regularly recognized for its excellent programs, student outcomes, and value. *U.S. News & World Report* ranked Marist 9th overall in its 2025 ranking of Best Regional Universities in the North, and the College is ranked 2nd for Best Undergraduate Teaching in the North Region. Marist also is named in the 2024 *Princeton Review*'s list of "Best 389 Colleges," with special accolades around student satisfaction, happiness, and residential life, and is consistently ranked among *Princeton Review*'s list of Top 50 "Colleges that Create Futures."

## ***Academics***

Marist's 225 full-time faculty members are devoted to teaching and to the personal and intellectual growth of their students. Small class sizes encourage a culture of close interaction between faculty and students. College-wide, approximately 65% of the full-time faculty are tenured or tenure-track. They are complemented by 330 part-time instructional staff bringing their specialized expertise to all units of the College. Marist faculty are recent recipients of major NSF, NIH, and U.S. Department of Education grants; have received Fulbright Research Awards; have published books with major university presses, such as Oxford, MIT, and the University of North Carolina; and serve in key leadership positions in professional organizations and on editorial boards of major scholarly journals. The faculty uses a collegial governance model.

The College offers 47 undergraduate majors, 13 graduate programs, 1 doctoral program, and multiple certificate programs through its six schools: the School of Communication and the Arts, the School of Computer Science and Mathematics, the School of Liberal Arts, the School of Management, the School of Science, and the School of Social and Behavioral Sciences. The College also offers a number of unique programs at its branch campus in Florence, Italy, including the only four-year U.S. bachelor's degree program in Florence.

## ***Marist 100: Improving the World Through Education***



***Marist 100*** is an ambitious seven-year plan that will carry the College through and beyond its centennial in 2029. The plan positions Marist for a major leap forward. While staying true to the defining elements of a Marist experience, the plan calls for introducing the College to new audiences, attracting talented students from increasingly diverse backgrounds, producing powerful outcomes for graduates, and delivering a truly distinctive living-learning experience.

The plan is framed around three pillars:

1. **Academic Vibrancy** – embracing its distinctive “and” not “or” approach to the liberal arts and pre-professional training, embracing classroom-based and experiential learning,

Marist will emerge as a leader in its student-centered approaching to teaching and learning.

2. **Student Centrality** – prioritizing student well-being and success, Marist will offer a truly distinctive student experience both in and out of the classroom.
3. **Expansive Community** – building a broader, inclusive community and richer learning environment for all, bringing Marist to the world and the world to Marist, attracting diverse student, faculty, and staff talent from various backgrounds and places.

### *Unique Learning Opportunities*

Within the academic programs, Marist offers many unique learning opportunities. The College has nationally recognized study abroad opportunities that include two distinctive first-year programs, the First Year Florence Experience and the First Year Dublin Experience. In both programs, new incoming undergraduate students spend their first full academic year abroad and then return to the Poughkeepsie campus for their remaining three years. Approximately half of Marist’s students study abroad at some point.

Perhaps the best known of the College’s unique experiential learning initiatives is [The Marist Poll](#), which is housed in the Marist College Institute for Public Opinion. Founded in 1978, the Institute was the first college-based research center to include undergraduates in conducting survey research. The academic mission of The Marist Poll remains central to its endeavors, with nearly 300 students from all majors working for the Poll each semester.



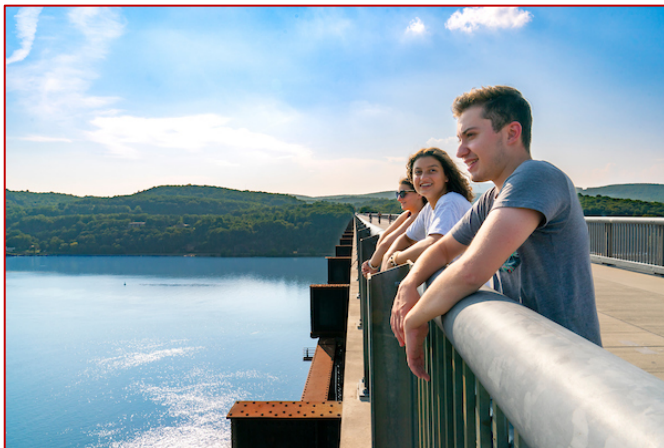
Several additional centers for research and engagement further enhance the academic experience for Marist students, including the Center for Civic Engagement and Leadership (CCEL), the Hudson River Valley Institute, the Center for Sports Communication, and the Institute for Data Center Professionals. The College also hosts the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library’s digital archives, making it one of only six colleges and universities in the nation that are affiliated with a presidential library.

## *The Campus*



The Marist College main campus—which consists of 75 buildings across 242 acres along the eastern and western shores of the Hudson River—is a physical manifestation of the College’s character and high standards of excellence. Elegant buildings, constructed with the distinctive grey stone and red brick of the Hudson River Gothic palette, are equipped with innovative, modern facilities and situated on an immaculate campus alongside the Hudson River.

Alumni frequently point out green, rolling fields that were once parking lots and expansive river vistas that once looked out onto industrial plants, evidence of the College’s deepened commitment to sustainability over the years. The artistically conceived and flawlessly executed campus master plan has, over several decades, reoriented the campus towards the river, suggesting an opening to the world while embracing its local geography. Marist’s campus extends across the Hudson River to a 60-acre riverfront estate in Esopus, NY. The estate includes the historic Col. Oliver Hazard Payne Mansion, home to the Raymond A. Rich Institute for Leadership Development.



### ***Location in The Hudson River Valley***

Halfway between New York City and Albany, Marist’s main campus is located in the heart of the beautiful and historic Hudson River Valley. The region has been ranked one of the “World’s Greatest Places” to live, work, and play, a region rich in culture, history, outdoor activities, and economic vitality. A highly skilled and diverse workforce with more than 75,000 employers call the Hudson Valley home, as

well as several Fortune 500 firms and two Fortune 50 firms (IBM and PepsiCo).

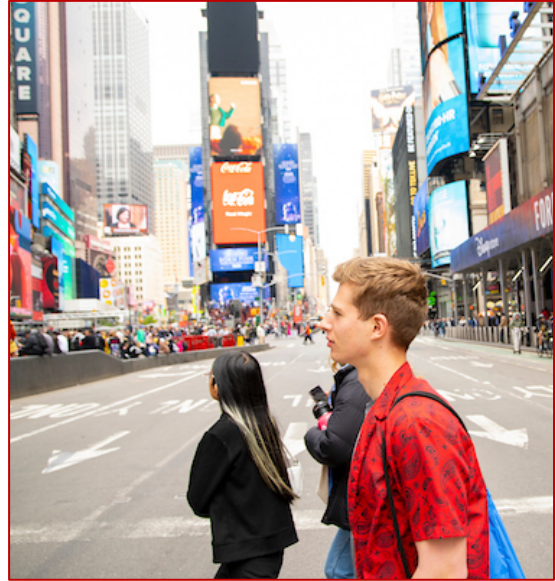
Popular local attractions include the Culinary Institute of America, the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Presidential Library, the Storm King Art Center, the Dia Beacon museum, the Vanderbilt Mansion, and the Walkway Over the Hudson (pictured above), the world’s longest elevated pedestrian bridge.



The College utilizes its location to strategic advantage. Proximity to New York City affords multiple opportunities for internships and experiential learning. The Albany Summer Internship Program enables students to gain an insider's perspective on communications, politics, and public policy in New York State's capital city.

### ***Development and Alumni Engagement***

The college's alumni, now more than 50,000 strong, are highly engaged. These alumni are increasingly successful in their careers and support Marist in growing numbers. In addition to financial support, alumni are a bridge to opportunity for students, providing mentorship, internships, and more. Marist has an impressive record of development success with prominent philanthropists in the surrounding region. The institution also benefits greatly from an expanding cadre of highly capable, supportive parents. New gifts, pledges, and grants totaled more than \$10.9 million in the 2022-2023 fiscal year.



### ***THE POSITION***

As a member of both the Provost's Council and the President's Cabinet, the Dean fills an important leadership position at an institution with a national reputation for teaching excellence and technological innovation. Reporting to the Provost/Dean of faculty, the Dean is responsible for developing and implementing programs that bring students and distinction to Marist. They are expected to work closely with the teams in Admissions and Enrollment Management, while engaging with alumni, Advisory Boards, and other professionals to promote grants, post-graduate placements, internship opportunities, and support for academic initiatives. The Dean oversees the hiring and evaluation of all full-time faculty in the school, exercising supervisory responsibility for the school's personnel, planning, fiscal management, project development, facilities, operations, assessment, and other administrative functions.

The ideal candidate will have experience in the academic community, although candidates with distinguished careers in the fields of communication or the arts will be carefully considered. Successful candidates will also be alert to the changing landscape in higher education, eager to embrace Marist's signature commitment to merging the liberal arts with preprofessional programs, will possess an understanding of and an appreciation for creative works and the realities of the communications industries, and be keen to engage the challenges and satisfaction that comes in working with students from varying backgrounds. Proven experience in developing support and cultivating partnerships with internal and external constituencies is required, as is a record of progressively increasing responsibility and demonstrated leadership in a senior management role. Further, the new dean will be dedicated to the assessment of student learning

and possess an unwavering commitment to student success. A terminal degree in a relevant field or comparable outstanding achievement in the private sector is required.

### ***Key Opportunities and Challenges***

The next Dean of the School of Communications and the Arts will leverage Marist's unique academic profile; solid financial position; dedicated Advisory Boards; striking campus; and highly engaged community of students, faculty, staff, and alumni, to continue to build on the school's positive trajectory. The Dean will have the opportunity to work with talented faculty and the resources of the school to advance the college's [strategic academic goals](#), which are to:

- establish the School as a leader in experiential learning and student-focused educational practices;
- foster and sustain a vibrant intellectual community of teacher-scholars, who produce ground-breaking scholarly, professional, and creative work as well as contributions to advancements in pedagogical practice;
- create pathways for student success by adapting how and what is taught, and through the development of programs that match student interest, societal need, and market demand;
- provide learning opportunities that enable undergraduates to make interdisciplinary connections, solve complex problems, collaborate, and develop leadership capabilities by investing in the relevance and distinctiveness of the Marist Core curriculum;
- enrich the educational experience through a curriculum and classroom experience that reflects and embraces the diversity of our society and our world.

To accomplish these goals, the dean must:

- appreciate the unique opportunity of a school that offers a wide range of programs in communication and the arts within a robust liberal arts context;
- understand the external market realities confronting private colleges;
- demonstrate the ability to build consensus around institutional strategies in order to capitalize on strengths and respond to the challenges of the market.

Marist is a highly selective, comprehensive institution grounded in the liberal arts, and the dean is a key advocate for the role of liberal arts in its educational programs. The college's faculty and students have earned prestigious, nationally competitive awards, and the dean plays a vital role in promoting such opportunities and recognizing the significance of such successes. Furthermore, the dean engages with alumni, members of the school's Advisory Boards, notable scholars, artists and other professionals to promote grant and fellowship opportunities, research, internship opportunities, and post-graduate placements.

### ***Responsibilities/Functions***

As a member of the Provost's Council and the President's Cabinet, the Dean fills an important leadership position at an institution with a national reputation for teaching excellence and technological innovation. Reporting to the Provost and Dean of Faculty, the Dean:

- exercises supervisory responsibility for the School's personnel, planning, fiscal management, project development, facilities, operations, assessment, and other administrative functions;
- oversees hiring, mentoring, developing, supervision, and evaluation of all full-time faculty and staff in the school;
- works closely with the Enrollment Office and the Office of College Advancement to develop new opportunities and collaborations both within and beyond the college to help support the School's strategic vision;
- mentors and guides department chairs in curricular development and oversight of part-time faculty;
- strives to recruit and retain faculty and students from diverse and underrepresented populations;
- develops and implements programs that bring students and distinction to Marist both nationally and globally;
- works closely with the members of the Fashion and Communication Advisory Boards to provide meaningful and practical experiences and opportunities for our students;
- ensures the quality and relevance of all academic programs.

### ***Qualifications***

The ideal candidate will:

- possess a terminal degree with a record of distinguished research/creative accomplishment, teaching and professional accomplishments commensurate with the rank of tenured full professor in an academic unit within the School of Communication and the Arts;
- demonstrate a commitment to the Marist mission to help students develop the intellect, character, and skills required for enlightened, ethical, and productive lives in the global community of the 21<sup>st</sup> century;
- be able to articulate and foster a shared and unifying vision across a complex school with multiple disciplinary perspectives representing distinct approaches to scholarly and creative work as well as teaching practice;
- have the ability to provide strategic direction for the School, ensuring alignment with the college's mission and goals as described in *Marist 100*;
- possess a record of impact in advancing diversity, inclusion, and access among faculty, staff, and students, including evidence of effectiveness in recruiting and retaining a more representative and diverse community of faculty, staff and students.
- have prior success in engaging internal and external constituencies, expanding financial resources, and developing successful programs and partnerships;
- foster an environment of student learning and possess knowledge of and dedication to the assessment of student learning in both undergraduate and graduate education;
- work in collaboration with faculty, staff and administration to carry out the vision for the school, demonstrating the leadership and team-building skills necessary to succeed in achieving that vision;
- support faculty in the development of interdisciplinary programs and initiatives across

- the college and in doing so foster innovative and entrepreneurial initiatives;
- build an inclusive culture that fosters trust across the school's and college's various constituents;
- demonstrate intellectual curiosity coupled with the willingness and humility to learn from others, evidencing a genuine enjoyment of the company of students, faculty, and staff, and demonstrating inclination to be a model colleague and college citizen;
- possess knowledge of the technologies in the fields of communications and the arts as well as an understanding of the implications for the technological transformation underway across those fields;
- have an awareness of both the threats and opportunities presented by current trends that impact higher education -- specifically but not limited to enrollment, technology, and market expectations -- along with the resulting impact on the development and delivery of courses and programs.

## ***NOMINATIONS AND APPLICATIONS***

AGB Search is pleased to assist Marist College with its search for the next Dean of the School of Communication and the Arts.

The Search Committee will begin a review of applications in the coming weeks and continue this work until an appointment is made. To assure full consideration, application materials should be received by **January 21, 2025**, and must include:

- A curriculum vitae/resume,
- A letter of interest that addresses the leadership opportunities in the profile,
- A statement outlining how you have worked to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion in your career and how you plan on continuing to do so at Marist, and
- Contact information for five references (to be contacted at a later date with candidate's permission) by for best consideration.

Please visit [Marist College Dean of Communication & the Arts Application](#) link to apply for the position. Should you have any questions or encounter any difficulties with the application process, please contact [MaristDeanCommArts@agbsearch.com](mailto:MaristDeanCommArts@agbsearch.com).

Nominations and expressions of interest in the Dean of the School of Communication and the Arts position are encouraged. Please direct them to: [MaristDeanCommArts@agbsearch.com](mailto:MaristDeanCommArts@agbsearch.com) or to the AGB search consultants listed below.

Concetta M. Stewart, PhD, Principal  
[concetta.stewart@agbsearch.com](mailto:concetta.stewart@agbsearch.com)  
 C: 908.341.2178

Monica Burton, Principal  
[monica.burton@agbsearch.com](mailto:monica.burton@agbsearch.com)  
 C: 917.825.2961

**EEO Statement:** Marist College is committed to creating a diverse workforce on our campus by ensuring that barriers to equal employment opportunity and upward mobility do not exist here. To this end, the College will strive to achieve the full and fair participation of minorities, women, people with disabilities, and any other protected groups found to be under-represented.

Equal opportunity means employment, development, and promotion of individuals without consideration of race, color, disability, religion, age, sex, marital status, national origin, sexual orientation, or veteran status unless there is a bona fide occupational requirement which excludes persons in one of these protected groups. The College will review its employment policies and procedures to ensure that barriers which may unnecessarily exclude protected groups are identified and eliminated. The College will also explore alternative approaches if any policy or practice is found to have a negative impact on protected groups.

Marist's policy of non-discrimination includes not only employment practices but also extends to all services and programs provided by the College. It shall be considered a violation of College policy for any member of the community to discriminate against any individual or group with respect to employment or attendance at Marist College on the basis of race, color, disability, religion, age, sex, marital status, national origin, sexual orientation, veteran status, or any other condition established by law.

