

Cleary University names new president as business model evolves

 [craigslist.com/education/cleary-university-names-new-president-business-model-evolves](https://www.craigslist.com/education/cleary-university-names-new-president-business-model-evolves)

Kurt Nagl

May 14, 2021



Cleary University has found a new leader in Alan Drimmer, a higher education veteran who has held a dozen different jobs in the industry over the past 20 years.

Drimmer takes over as president of the Howell-based business school July 1, Cleary announced Thursday. He replaces Jayson Boyers, who is leaving to become president of Rosemont College in Pennsylvania. Interim President Emily Barnes will continue serving in that role until Drimmer starts.

"I'm most excited to help the University advance the Cleary Mind initiative, which threads critical workplace competencies in the classroom and across the entire student experience," Drimmer said in a news release.

Drimmer comes to Cleary from National Defense University, a U.S. Department of Defense-funded university where he served as provost for less than two years. Prior to that role, he was chief academic officer and senior vice president at University of Maryland.

In addition to working several consulting roles throughout his career, Drimmer was provost at University of Phoenix for two years, president at Western International University for two years and president of American Intercontinental University's online campus for more than

four years, according to his LinkedIn profile. He began his career as a consultant for McKinsey & Co.

Drimmer earned a bachelor's degree, a master's degree and a Ph.D in political science from the University of Chicago and an MBA from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania. He also was a National Security Fellow at Harvard University's Center for International Affairs.

Drimmer brings his experience in consulting and steering independent colleges to a not-for-profit school that has evolved its business model in recent years. Under Boyers, Cleary built out its main campus by adding two residence halls, renovating its dining hall and student union, and constructing a \$2.5 million athletic complex as it places more emphasis on attracting student athletes.

Unlike many other schools in Michigan, enrollment has grown at Cleary, even during the pandemic, although revenue has decreased. Total enrollment for fall 2020 was 682, up slightly from 678 the year prior and up more than 20 percent from 2015 when there were 557 students. Traditional on-campus undergraduates have grown in the past 10 years from 79 in fall 2010 to 352 in fall 2020.

At the same time, the pandemic sapped income streams including corporate partnerships and fundraising, which led to a slight revenue decline, according to the school. Additionally, Cleary has increased its need-based scholarships to attract students.

"As our economy recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic and the labor market evolves, employers in Michigan and around the country are eager to find graduates who can excel in complex work environments where problem solving, critical thinking, creativity, communication and ethics are paramount," Drimmer said.