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Linda Vaden-Goad Bio

Framingham State University

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Linda Vaden-Goad joined Framingham State University in August 2010 as the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs. Focused on developing and retaining quality faculty and staff, strengthening new student preparation and early academic success, pursuing excellence and engagement in the academic experience, preparing students for global citizenship and competitiveness, strengthening and expanding STEM programs and student success in STEM areas, and responding to labor market trends in academic program and center development, she has presided over a successful five-year academic strategic plan that links these six university academic strategic priorities to grassroots initiative budgeting and assessment. She builds opportunities for collaboration within the university through cross-curricular teaching and learning and student/faculty collaborative research, and she assists the faculty in connecting to the community through her support of academic centers that link university research and expertise with community need. She also is strengthening support for global opportunities for students by creating new partnerships with universities abroad and creating a fund to support students who do not have the means to study abroad without assistance. She supported the creation of the university's first cooperative education program in Computer Science, a new Honors house, new national accreditations honors societies in the disciplines, and a new general education program that began in Fall 2013. With the cooperation and support of the faculty, University President and Board, she restructured the administration in Academic Affairs to create a college structure to improve the effectiveness of the academic enterprise. She is most proud of the ways in which we continue to strive for inclusion and student success.

Linda served on the Board of Directors of the MetroWest Chamber of Commerce and as a Trustee on the Board of the Wayside Inn. Prior to joining Framingham State (2002-2010), she served as the Dean of the School of Arts & Sciences at Western Connecticut State University. During her years as dean, she led successful programs dealing with college readiness, community collaboration, global studies, student/faculty collaborative research, new discipline-specific undergraduate research journals, fundraising efforts to support academic programs, and the creation of an endowed chair. Prior to her work in Connecticut, she was a social psychology professor and later department chair at the University of Houston-Downtown. She also served as president of the Texas Conference of the American Association of University Professors and on two national AAUP committees. She also was appointed in Texas to serve on two state-wide committees related to formula funding in public higher education.

Linda holds a PhD in Social Psychology from the University of Houston. Her research focuses on self-silencing in intimate relationships, gender issues, depression, and attributional style. She and her husband, Bob, a mathematics professor at Southern Connecticut State University, live in Framingham, MA, and they enjoy reading, hiking, backpacking, kayaking, and exploring new places. Their adult children live in New York, Longview (TX), and Santa Monica.