

7-29-2019

## Memo Regarding Governor Pritzker's Appointments to the Board of Trustees

Office of the President

President  
Monday, July 29, 2019 10:01 AM  
Perdue, Penny  
Memo from President Maimon on Governor Pritzker's Trustee Appointments



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Date: July 29, 2019  
To: GSU Campus Community  
From: Elaine P. Maimon, President  
Re: Governor Pritzker's announcement of appointments to the Board of Trustees

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On Friday afternoon Governor Pritzker announced six appointments to Governors State University's Board of Trustees.

A warm GSU welcome to trustees Kevin Brookins, John Brudnak, Lisa Harrell, Angela Hickey, James Kvedaras, Anibal Taboas.

The Governor will announce one additional appointment later. We are now working with trustees to set a time for their first meeting. We will, as usual, post the date and the agenda.

Please note that three of the new trustees are alumni. I know you will join me in welcoming our trustees, including newly elected student trustee Lester Van Moody, into these important positions. We look forward to working with them as GSU progresses into its next fifty years.

We also wish to recognize the service of former trustees Carney Barr, Bruce Friefeld, Cornelius Griggs, Pat Ormsby, Masah SamForay, Lorraine Tyson, and student trustee Linda Coleman. Special thanks to former Board Chair Pat Ormsby, who led the Board through the challenging years of the budget impasse and presided over the university's initial recovery.

Please see <https://www2.illinois.gov/Pages/news-item.aspx?ReleaseID=20361> for information from the Governor's Office about each trustee.



Kevin Brookins will serve on the Board of Trustees of Governors State University.\* Brookins is a retired electric utility executive with 33 years of experience. Prior to his retirement, he served in a number of key positions, including senior vice president of Strategy & Administration; vice president, Operational Strategy & Business Intelligence; vice president, Distribution System Operations; vice president, Work Management and New Business; vice president, Customer Field Operations, ComEd and PECO; director, Construction and Maintenance, ComEd Chicago Region; and director, Regional Operations, ComEd Southeast Region. Brookins started his career in 1983 with ComEd as a corporate planning analyst. He held various engineering positions and supervised design engineers, including reviewing and approving electric distribution facilities at Chicago's Navy Pier and United Center. As an electric supplier services manager, he negotiated retail access rules with suppliers, consumer groups, and other interested parties at the Illinois Commerce Commission in preparation for retail customers choosing a supplier other than ComEd. He received his Master of Business Administration from Governors State University and his Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering from Howard University.

John Brudnak will serve on the Board of Trustees of Governors State University.\* Brudnak has spent the last 32 years as a sales representative for Steel and Wire Co. and also currently serves as the president pro-tem of the Orland Fire Protection District Board of Trustees. He's served on the fire board since his appointment in 2011 and was re-elected to a six-year term in 2013. Brudnak previously served on the Orland School District 135 from 2001 to 2011 where he was vice president and participated in numerous committees, including contract negotiations. He received his bachelor's in business administration and marketing from St. Mary's College.

Lisa Harrell will serve on the Board of Trustees of Governors State University.\* Harrell has more than 30 years of experience in business consulting, human capital management, leadership development and change management and currently serves as the Chief People Officer at Cleveland Avenue, a hybrid accelerator, venture capital and consulting firm that strategically invests in restaurant, food and beverage concepts and emerging brands. Before joining CA, Harrell founded AMD Business Solutions, Inc., a human capital solutions and consulting firm. Prior to that, she served as Vice President of Human Capital and Executive Development for UnitedHealth Group (UHG) Company where she led the development of high potential leadership. Her career started in the hospitality industry, staffing and training employees for a major Chicago hotel chain. Harrell holds a Master's in Human Resources and Industrial Relations from the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana and a Bachelor of Arts in Speech and Interpersonal Communications.

Angela Hickey will serve on the Board of Trustees of Governors State University.\* Hickey serves as the Chief Executive Officer of Chicago law firm, Levenfeld Pearlstein (LP), where she has worked in various leadership capacities since 1999. A huge proponent of creating opportunities for others, Hickey has been a member of the Catholic Charities Board of Advisors for more than 10 years. She also lends her time and leadership abilities to the Girl Scouts of Greater Chicago & Northwest Indiana's "Camp CEO" program. Hickey earned her B.S. in Accounting from Governors State University and her MBA from the Keller Graduate School of Management. She is a licensed CPA and holds a graduate certificate in leadership coaching from Georgetown University.

James Kvedaras will serve on the Board of Trustees of Governors State University.\* Kvedaras recently retired after 37 years in the railroad industry, assuming roles of increased responsibility across a number of departments, including Director of U.S. Government Affairs, where he managed state and local Government Affairs for sixteen states. He now continues to give of his personal time on boards and committees for several organizations, including Governors State University, the Chicago South Suburban Mass Transit District (representing his home town of Homewood), the Cancer Support Center of Homewood and Mokena, and has started doing independent business consulting for a local community college. Kvedaras received his MBA from Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management and his Bachelor's in Business Administration from Governors State University.

Anibal Taboas will continue to serve on the Board of Trustees of Governors State University.\* Taboas has served on the GSU board since 2012, chairing the Academic Affairs Committee. He also is an executive consultant to industry, educational and governmental agencies with a focus on strategic leadership and risk management. Taboas previously served as president and CEO of Aspira Inc. of Illinois, a non-profit dedicated to leadership development. He also worked at Argonne National Laboratory as a principal mechanical engineer and at the U.S. Department of Energy as an Assistant Manager for Programs and Projects. He received his Master of Science in Nuclear & Mechanical Engineering from Northwestern University, Master of Science in Physics from Indiana State University, and Bachelor's in Physics and Theology from the University of Dayton.