



University of Pittsburgh

Division of Student Affairs

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Dr. Jay Darr Appointed University Counseling Center Director

The Division of Student Affairs at the University of Pittsburgh is pleased to announce that Dr. Jay Darr has been appointed the new director of the University Counseling Center (UCC), effective February 18, 2019. In his new role, Dr. Darr will provide clinical and administrative leadership, and offer his vision and strategic direction for the UCC, which serves a culturally diverse population of more than 28,000 undergraduate, graduate, and professional students. Dr. Darr will work closely alongside the Wellness Center staff, including Student Health Service and its Office of Health Education and Promotion. He will also serve on several University committees, including the Mental Health Taskforce.

“Dr. Darr will play a key role in leading the UCC as it continues to support our students’ well-being,” said vice provost and dean of students Kenyon R. Bonner. “We looked for a transformational leader with an exceptional clinical background who we believed could leverage the immense talent, expertise, and experience of our counseling staff and implement strategies to strengthen our already robust UCC services and programs. I look forward to supporting Dr. Darr in his efforts to provide high-quality and timely mental health services to meet the evolving needs of our diverse student population.”

Darr earned his Ph.D. from Duquesne University’s Executive Counseling and Supervision Education program, with a specialization in crisis management. His M.S. degree in education (in counseling education and supervision, with a concentration in school counseling) was also earned at Duquesne. He received both his B.A. and M.A. degrees from West Virginia University, where he studied sociology. He is a Licensed Professional Counselor in Pennsylvania, Texas, and North Carolina. In 2018, he was the recipient of the American College Counseling Association (ACCA) Counselor of the Year award.

“I am humbled by the opportunity to return home and serve as director of the University Counseling Center,” shares Darr. “I look forward to listening to, being inspired by, and collaborating with the Pitt community to enhance student well-being and success.”

Darr joins Student Affairs after serving most recently as the clinical liaison and coordinator at the University of North Texas in Denton, TX where he led embedded clinical, career assessments, outreach, psychological testing, and psycho-educational services for student athletes. He has also worked in various roles within the healthcare field: as a learning specialist, care manager, therapist, and counselor. Darr is a veteran, who served as a commissioned officer in the U.S. Army.

Marian Vanek, executive director of the Wellness Center, shares her excitement to work with Darr as a colleague: “I am thrilled to have him become part of the Wellness Center team. He brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to Pitt. I am looking forward to working together to continue to enhance the counseling center experience at the University.”

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