

To the UConn Community,

Our University is in the midst of an extraordinary experiment in higher education – an experiment imposed upon us by a global pandemic unlike anything our world has experienced in the past 100 years.

While our response evolves with the changing needs of the moment, it is guided first by protecting the health and safety of our communities and second by continuing the most essential elements of our mission to the extent possible. Within those guidelines we have been able to go forward with all classes, continue life critical research and even make advances such as a new invention disclosure from a biomedical engineering professor of a new method for diagnosing coronavirus.

It is in that spirit of carrying on our mission and even advancing it during extraordinary times that I am pleased to announce the successful conclusion to two searches for senior leadership positions critical to the continued excellence of UConn: the University Provost, and the Dean of the School of Law.

These newest additions to UConn Nation will help us build on our tradition of greatness and make bold new gains as we navigate the challenges of our time. Please join me in welcoming UConn's new Provost, Carl W. Lejuez, and the new Dean of the UConn School of Law, Eboni S. Nelson.

Carl, the dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at the University of Kansas, had served since April 2018 as the university's interim provost and executive vice chancellor before returning in February to his current position. He previously was professor of psychology and associate dean of research for the College of Behavioral and Social Sciences at the University of Maryland.

He holds his M.A. and Ph.D., both in clinical psychology, from West Virginia University; and earned his B.A. in psychology from Emory University. He has strong family and professional connections at UConn and across Connecticut and, as a native of Secaucus, N.J.

He will begin at UConn on May 29. More information about Carl [can be found here](#).

Carl's experience as a seasoned provost and former dean prepares him well to lead us creatively and nimbly through the challenges of returning to a new normal after COVID-19. He impressed all constituencies through the extensive interview process with his values, integrity and energy, and I am delighted to have Carl's leadership and partnership as our next provost.

Eboni is associate dean for academic affairs and professor of law at the University of South Carolina School of Law, where she has been honored with awards for her classroom teaching and her faculty service. She came to South Carolina in 2007 from Thurgood Marshall School of Law at Texas Southern University in Houston, and previously served in private practice.

Nelson received her J.D. from Harvard Law School and graduated *summa cum laude* with a B.A. in psychology from Wake Forest University, where she was elected to the prestigious Phi Beta Kappa honor society.

She will begin at the School of Law on Aug. 1. More information about Eboni [can be found here](#).

Eboni brings extraordinary new energy and talent to the School of Law. She is a rising star whose perspectives and vision will add new dimensions to a school that has excelled in scholarship, education and service to communities and the state.

Carl and Eboni are both exceptionally caring people and approachable leaders, and I know they will resonate with and be warmly received by the UConn community. Plans are in the works for virtual “meet and greets” this spring, a necessity forced on us by the global pandemic, but there will be plenty of time in the fall to introduce ourselves in person as well.

Before I conclude, I want to extend the thanks of the entire UConn community to Sandra M. Chafouleas, Board of Trustees Distinguished Professor in the Department of Educational Psychology for chairing the provost search, and to Nina Heller, Dean of the School of Social Work for chairing the law school search, and to all the members of these committees. I also want to thank the many dozens of other faculty, students and staff who participated in these searches and provided their feedback and assessments along the way. We were assisted in both searches by the firm Heidrick & Struggles.

I am very excited about what these two academic leaders will bring to our community, and how they will enhance and enlarge the University of Connecticut’s commitment to excellence. Please join me in welcoming Carl and Eboni to UConn Nation by sending your best wishes to [communications@uconn.edu](mailto:communications@uconn.edu).

Sincerely,  
Thomas C. Katsouleas  
President  
University of Connecticut