



Photo by Dan Viderich

“I look forward to building on Park’s national leadership and extraordinarily proud heritage.” — *Greg Gunderson, Ph.D.*

“It’s exceedingly clear that for 140 years, Park University has embraced a willingness to innovate that has positioned it ahead of the curve in higher education in a manner its peers should envy,” said Gunderson, who became Park’s 17th president on Jan. 15. “I look forward to building on Park’s national leadership and extraordinarily proud heritage.”

The appointment by the University’s Board of Trustees came after a nationwide search led by EFL Associates Inc., and a search committee led by Park University trustee Julie Wilson, representing a diverse cross-section of University stakeholders, including trustees, alumni, faculty, staff and students.

“Dr. Gunderson’s experience and leadership — along with his enthusiasm to create an environment of achievement for students, faculty, staff and alumni — positioned him well to be our next president,” said Michael Collins, ’04, chair of the University’s Board of Trustees.

“Besides being extraordinarily welcoming, Park’s faculty and staff have impressed me with their absolute commitment to meeting the needs of students,” Gunderson said. “Park is a true open-enrollment institution that welcomes all learners, with support services meeting students where they are. Whether entering college after high school, returning mid-career, proudly serving in the military or transitioning as a veteran, every student is valued for who they are and given the support they need to reach their goals. That has been Park’s mission since 1875 and it will continue to be our guiding priority.”

Gunderson brings a strong combination of education and business experience to the University. Before joining Park, Gunderson



President Gunderson talks with students in Thompson Commons, a favorite gathering spot on the Parkville Campus.

served nearly five years as the vice president and chief financial officer of Webster University in St. Louis, leading its accounting, purchasing, accounts payable, bursar, internal audit, public safety, strategic planning, facilities and treasury units, and directed the financial processes for Webster’s 68 campuses around the world.

Prior to his service at Webster, Gunderson spent nine years at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln — six years (2005-11) as assistant vice chancellor for business operations in the Office of Academic Affairs and three years (2002-05) as director of financial resources and budget operations.

Gunderson also has experience in the private sector as project controller and chief of staff at ConAgra Inc., in Omaha, Neb.; director of finance for inbound operations at APAC Customer Services in Omaha; senior revenue accountant and tax accountant at Cray Research Inc., Eagan, Minn.; and tax accountant at Arthur Anderson and Co., St. Paul, Minn.

Selected “CFO of the Year” by the *St. Louis Business Journal* in 2014, Gunderson earned his doctoral degree in educational leadership in higher education from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He received a Master of Business Administration degree from the University of St. Thomas (St. Paul, Minn.) and a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration from the University of Nebraska-Omaha.

A native of Omaha, Gunderson’s family includes his wife of 27 years, Laurie, and their two sons, David, 19, and Jack, 17. In his spare time, Gunderson makes writing pens with a wood lathe and enjoys restoring cars. In addition, he is a lifelong curler (the sport of sliding stones on a sheet of ice).

“My family is excited to become a part of the dedicated Park family,” Gunderson said. “Everyone — from Park students, faculty, staff and administration to our cherished alumni, partners, funders and friends — should feel a sense of great pride to join in celebrating Park’s 140 years of success.”