



*The UNIVERSITY of OKLAHOMA*  
*Office of the Senior Vice President and Provost*

February 18, 2026

Dear Colleagues,

We are pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Elizabeth “Liz” Karr as Vice Provost for Online Education, effective April 4, pending final approval by the OU Board of Regents.

In this role, which will report jointly to both Provosts, Dr. Karr will work closely with OU Education Services to expand access to an OU degree by strengthening the university’s online offerings in high-demand fields. Building on the strong foundation already in place, Dr. Karr will help advance a cohesive strategy that enhances the academic experience for our online students – fostering meaningful engagement, strengthening pathways to completion, and ensuring they are fully supported throughout their academic journey. Her leadership in online programming for both Norman and Health Campus programs will be instrumental as we advance our online enrollment goal of 10,000 students – a key priority outlined in OU’s [“Lead On, University: The Next Phase” Strategic Plan](#).

Dr. Karr first joined OU in the Department of Microbiology and Plant Biology as an Assistant Professor in 2007 and currently serves as the Senior Associate Dean of the OU Graduate College and Professor of Biological Sciences. In her current role, she has led comprehensive strategies to enhance the Graduate College’s organizational capacity and policy development and student success initiatives that directly advanced institutional goals in graduate education, faculty engagement, and degree completion.

Throughout her career, she has been engaged at the national level in various organizations, including the Southeastern Conference Academic Leadership Development Program and the Council of Graduate Schools. During her tenure at OU, she has secured \$3 million in external research funding, authored and co-authored over 20 peer-reviewed publications while continuing to mentor numerous students.

Dr. Karr holds a Ph.D. in Molecular Biology, Microbiology, and Biochemistry from Southern Illinois University and a Bachelor of Science in Biology from Murray State University.

We also would like to extend our deep appreciation to Dr. Mark Morvant, Senior Vice Provost for Student Success, who temporarily stepped in to oversee the duties of this role.

Please join us in congratulating Dr. Karr on her selection for this key role.

Sincerely,

André-Denis G. Wright  
Senior Vice President and Provost, Norman Campus

Gary E. Raskob  
Senior Vice President and Provost, OU Health Campus