Concordia University, St. Paul Tuition Reset Spokespeople

Rev. Tom Ries  
President  
651-641-8211  
ries@csp.edu

President Ries took office on June 1, 2011, and has spent 12 years as a chief strategist, spokesperson and servant leader in his various positions at Concordia, including vice president for finance and operations. He has extensive experience in non-profit management as well as higher education leadership, having served as a pastor for nearly a decade and as president of The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod Foundation. He is a graduate of Concordia Senior College and earned his master of divinity degree from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. He holds an MBA with an emphasis in finance from the University of Minnesota, where he is also a doctoral degree candidate in the higher education administration program.

Eric LaMott  
Senior Vice President & Chief of Operations  
651-641-8729  
lamott@csp.edu

In his roles as COO and CIO at Concordia, LaMott has led the budget task force for the past eight years, started Concordia’s laptop and technology initiatives, overseen construction of four campus buildings, and led campus enrollment management. He has been associated with Concordia for 18 years and also serves as a full professor and chair of the kinesiology and health science department. He earned his bachelor’s and master’s degrees at Boise State University and his Ph.D. at the University of Minnesota.

Lonn Maly  
Vice President for Academic Affairs  
651-641-8203  
maly@csp.edu

Now in his 16th year at Concordia, Maly brings expertise in educational leadership and higher education administration, having previously served as dean of Concordia’s education department and as an elementary school teacher and principal. He earned his bachelor’s degree at Concordia and his master’s degree at Drake University and is a Ph.D. candidate at the University of California (Riverside).
Rusty Seltz  
**Vice President for Advancement**  
651-641-8225  
seltz@csp.edu

Seltz is responsible for alumni relations, university fundraising, and church relations at Concordia, where he has served since 2011. Prior to that he was executive director of university leadership relations at Valparaiso University. His career has also included business development for Lucent Technologies in Copenhagen, Denmark, and legal and investment management services in the Twin Cities area. He earned a bachelor’s degree and J.D. at Valparaiso and an MBA degree at St. Thomas University.

Jason Rahn  
**Associate Vice President for Student Life**  
651-641-8706  
rahn@csp.edu

Rahn brings expertise in the student experience and the transition from high school to college, having served at Concordia for 17 years in capacities that encompass judicial affairs, residence life, counseling services, health services, service learning, study abroad and leadership. He earned his bachelor’s and M.A. in organizational management degrees from Concordia.

Kristin Vogel  
**Director of Undergraduate Admissions**  
651-641-8839  
vogel@csp.edu

With responsibility for undergraduate student recruitment, Vogel’s nine years at Concordia have given her expertise in college admissions, the student experience, the transition from high school to college and general financial aid knowledge. She earned a bachelor’s degree in sociocultural studies at Bethel University and a master’s degree in human services at Concordia.

Brad Hewitt  
**Chair of the Board of Regents**  
President and CEO of Thrivent  
763-951-2920  
brad.hewitt@thrive.com

As head of the only Fortune 500 faith-based membership organization, Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, Hewitt leads an organization whose purpose is to connect faith and finances for Christian communities and their members. In addition to Concordia’s board, he serves on the boards of the Lutheran Community Foundation and the American Council of Life Insurers. He holds a bachelor’s degree in mathematics with a minor in economics from the University of Wisconsin-River Falls and completed the Harvard Graduate School of Business Program for Management Development.
Cheryl Chatman
Executive Vice President & Dean of Diversity
651-603-6151
chatman@csp.edu

Having spent 12 years at Concordia providing leadership in enhancing communication, collaboration, unity and harmony among diverse student populations, Chatman has expertise in the impact financial aid has on students in general and students of color in particular. She holds a bachelor’s degree in psychology, an M.S. in child development, and an Ed.D. in educational administration with an emphasis in higher education.

Lee Pao Xiong
Director for Center for Hmong Studies
651-641-8870
xiong@csp.edu

During his nine years at Concordia, Lee Pao has also served as a political science professor, teaching American Government and Hmong Studies. His career has included director of housing policy and development for the City of Minneapolis, president and CEO of The Urban Coalition, and executive director of the State Council on Asian-Pacific Minnesotan, Hmong American Partnership and the Hmong Youth Association of Minnesota. He holds a bachelor’s degree from the University of Minnesota and a master’s degree from Hamline University, where he is also a doctoral candidate in public administration.

Jeannie Peck
Director of Financial Aid
651-641-8709
peck@csp.edu

Peck is a higher education leader in direct financial transparency measures, which is being promoted at the national level by the Obama Administration and Senator Al Franken. Having served at Concordia since 2011, she offers expertise in private college affordability and the financial benefits of obtaining a higher education degree in higher education. She earned an associate’s degree from Anoka Ramsey Community College, a bachelor’s degree from the University of Minnesota, and a master’s degree in higher education leadership from Capella University.

Jason DeBoer-Moran
Director of Marketing
651-641-8766
moran@csp.edu

DeBoer-Moran has served at Concordia for 10 years in capacities that also include social media marketing, instructional technologies, and information technology help desk and technical repair. He also spent a year touring with Lutheran Youth Encounter in India and Nepal. He holds bachelor’s and MBA degrees from Concordia.
Jay Weiler
Student (Junior from Auburndale, WI)
715-652-3690
weilerj@csp.edu

Weiler is majoring in professional writing and percussion performance at Concordia. He is active in student life as a campus tour guide, a resident assistant, and a member of several music performance organizations.

Jenna Gehl
Student (Junior from Plymouth, MN)
612-644-9014
gehlj@csp.edu

Gehl is majoring in Grades 5-12 math education with a Confessional Lutheranism minor and coaching certificate because she hopes to someday teach high school math at a small Lutheran school and coach the volleyball or basketball team. As a Concordia student, she works in the Admissions office and serves as a campus tour guide, does peer tutoring, and is active in the Tri-Pi Math Club and intramural sports.

Amal Younis
Student (Freshman from Blaine, MN)
763-568-0471
younisa@csp.edu

Younis plans to attend law school after Concordia and is majoring in English with a minor in political science. She is involved in UMOJA (United Minds Of Joint Action), which is a diversity student organization.

Kyle Sorkness
Student, Student Body President (Senior from Fergus Falls, MN)
218-731-0864
sorknesk@csp.edu

As the Student Body President and Honors Program participant, Sorkness plans to attend seminary after Concordia. He has also participated in Student Senate, Concordia Missions Society, the Ignite Leadership Program and Hippos archaeological dig.