



Rachelle Keck, Ph.D.

Grand View President-Elect

March 2022

Biography

Rachelle Keck, Ph.D., has served as Briar Cliff University's 11th President since being appointed in 2018. She was announced as Grand View's 14th President on Tuesday, March 22, 2022.

An Iowa native and one of nine children, Dr. Keck is a proud, first-generation college student, having graduated from Wartburg College with a bachelor of arts degree in psychology. She then went on to earn her juris doctorate from the University of Iowa College of Law. She then earned her doctor of philosophy degree in education from Drake University.

Dr. Keck began her career as a prosecutor before establishing her own law firm. During this time, she also served on the Wartburg College Board of Regents and participated in their presidential search. It was during this process she realized her vocational calling to work in higher education leadership.

This new passion for higher education eventually led Dr. Keck to philanthropy roles at the University of Iowa Foundation as their Director of Planned Giving, and then to Indian Hills Community College as their Executive Director for Philanthropy and Alumni Relations before joining Briar Cliff in 2017. At Briar Cliff, Dr. Keck has led the expansion of academic programs and developed a comprehensive campus master plan. She also led several key fundraising initiatives centered around academics, athletics and campus beautification. In addition, the use of technology both in and out of the classroom has expanded, the endowment has grown, enrollment has increased and grant dollars applied for and awarded have increased during her tenure. Dr. Keck also brings extensive strategic budgeting and organizational leadership experience to Grand View.

In addition to her success as a lawyer, fundraiser, and university executive, Dr. Keck is also a lifelong believer in, and practitioner of, volunteerism. She is currently the President of Leadership Siouxland, and a board member for UnityPoint Health - St. Luke's Regional Medical Center, Girls Inc. of Sioux City, and the statewide Iowa Sister States organization as well as their Governance Committee Chair. Additionally, she is an Executive Board member for the Iowa Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, and a member of the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities Tax Policy Committee.

Dr. Keck and her husband, Jim, have four children, three of whom live in the Des Moines metro area.