

‘Higher Education
Should and Does Change
People’s Lives’

Meet the Next President

*Sarah Mangelsdorf, the University’s
next president, has long been a champion
of the “transformative experience”
of higher education.*

As she introduced herself to the University community as Rochester’s next president, Sarah Mangelsdorf, currently the provost at the University of Wisconsin–Madison, offered an overview of how she thinks about higher education and the special role it plays in the lives of those who study, teach, and work at universities.

An award-winning teacher herself, she told a story of being a third-generation academic. Her father was a professor of physics at Swarthmore College in Philadelphia, where she grew up. Her grandfather had been a plant geneticist at Harvard. From an early age, she was steeped not just in the traditions, expectations, and jargon of academia, but she also saw the commitment with which members of university communities engage with their institutions and with each other.

“Some of my earliest memories are the pomp and circumstance of academic ceremonies, with my father in his academic robes on his way to graduation—on his bike no less,” Mangelsdorf told a group of faculty, staff, and students gathered this winter in Rush Rhees Library for an introductory ceremony that was also streamed live to the University community. “But in addition to growing up knowing about all the customs, costumes, and the ceremonies of the academy, I learned early on the fundamental importance, the essential importance, of the academic enterprise.”

Over the course of a three-decade career at some of the nation’s leading public and private



HISTORIC ANNOUNCEMENT:
“I look forward to working collaboratively with all of you to help us reach our goals,” Sarah Mangelsdorf said as she was introduced last December as Rochester’s next president. Succeeding Richard Feldman, Mangelsdorf will become the first woman to lead the University when she becomes the University’s chief executive this summer.

BRIEF BIO

Sarah Mangelsdorf

President Designate

Education

PhD in Child Psychology,
University of Minnesota
BA in Psychology, Oberlin College

Leadership & Faculty Positions

University of Wisconsin

2014-19
Provost and Vice Chancellor
for Academic Affairs
Professor, Department of Psychology

Northwestern University

2008-14
Dean, Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences;
Professor, Department of Psychology
2012-14
Faculty Associate, Institute of Policy Research;
Affiliated Professor, Department of Medical
Social Sciences

University of Illinois

2006-08
Dean, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
2004-06
Acting Dean, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
2003-04
Department Head, Department of Psychology
2001-03
Associate Provost, University of Illinois
2001-07
Professor, Department of Psychology
2000-01
Associate Head, Department of Psychology
1996-2001
Associate professor, Department of Psychology
1992-95
Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology

University of Michigan

1987-91
Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology

Leiden University, The Netherlands

1999-2000
Visiting Professor

Family

Mangelsdorf and her husband, Karl Rosengren, a developmental psychologist who is also a professor of psychology, have two children, Julia Rosengren and Emily Rosengren, and a son-in-law, Richard Lee.

A native of Pennsylvania, Mangelsdorf is a third-generation academic. Her father, Paul C. Mangelsdorf Jr., was a professor of physics at Swarthmore College and her grandfather, Paul C. Mangelsdorf, was a professor of botany at Harvard University.



INTRODUCTIONS: President Richard Feldman introduced Mangelsdorf at a campus reception, noting that he's confident she's the right person to lead the University into its next chapter.

universities, Mangelsdorf has been widely recognized for helping her home institutions achieve their goals. After a bachelor's degree from Oberlin, she earned a PhD at the University of Minnesota before embarking on a career as a professor of psychology and noted academic administrator. From her first faculty appointment at the University of Michigan to teaching, research, and leadership positions at the University of Illinois, Northwestern University, and Wisconsin, Mangelsdorf has earned praise for her work to advance academic quality, educational access, and diversity and inclusion.

Throughout her career, she has distinguished herself as a leader who's attentive to the contributions of every constituency that makes up an academic community. As part of her Rochester presentation, she celebrated the wide cast—faculty, students, alumni, staff, donors, members of local and regional communities, elected officials, and other friends—who contribute to the success of universities like Rochester.

The first woman to lead the University, Mangelsdorf officially takes on the role of Rochester's president this summer. In the meantime, she shared some of her aspirations and ideas about the life of research universities as a way of introducing herself to the University community. Here are a few highlights:

Creating Value—for Individuals and for Communities

Institutions like the University of Rochester create value, from the scientific research discoveries that uncover new basic knowledge and new cures and medical treatments, to scholarship in the arts, humanities, and social sciences that help us to better understand the human condition and human motivation, to the reflective and revelatory experiences music, dance, theater, and the visual arts provide, and finally to the necessary contribution that the higher education experience makes in the formation of young—and sometimes not-so-young—minds.

Helping Better Thinkers Be Better Leaders

Exposure to difference, experience with civil discourse, embracing new ideas, new approaches, new points of view, risk and reward, argument and perspective, challenge and compassion. These are the things that higher education should provide in abundance. These are the things that are essential to the development of our students. These are the things that I believe create better thinkers, better leaders, and better citizens of this world. Higher education should and does change people's lives.

Widening the Window of Opportunity

I have spent much of my career working to ensure that this formative experience is available to the widest possible number of people regardless of their gender or race, religion, or economic background. I will bring that perspective to my presidency. I am passionate about equity, diversity, and inclusion, and have championed programs at all three of the institutions where I have been an administrator to increase the diversity of our faculty, staff, and students. I will bring all of that experience, passion, and commitment to Rochester.



CAMPUS MEETING: Mangelsdorf greets Kelly Scott, the wife of Michael Scott (right), a professor of computer science who cochaired a key committee during the search.

Sharing Our Significance

We talk at Rochester about making the world ever better, and we do—in so many ways. One of my responsibilities will be to make sure that we stay on this course and that we have the resources to do so. One of my other responsibilities will be to make sure that more people know about it. The University of Rochester makes significant contributions to the world, and the world should know that. It's time that the University claims and takes credit for all of its excellence.

Being a Good Neighbor

Even as we attend to our national and international reputation, which is very important, we must also attend to our home city and region. I'm committed to sustaining and enhancing our University's continued engagement with our local community. The University of Rochester is proud to call the city of Rochester our home.

Giving Thanks

I want to thank Cathy Minehan, Danny Wegman, and Rich Handler, and the rest of the University's Board of Trustees for their trust in me. I will do everything in my power to justify that trust. I would also like to thank President Rich Feldman for his dedication and stewardship of an institution I know he loves deeply.

Most importantly, I've been struck by the affection and pride that everyone seems to have for this special place on the banks of the Genesee. And I would like to thank all of you for your support and commitment to the University.

I would also like to thank my family: my husband, Karl Rosengren, a distinguished professor of psychology; our daughters, Julia and Emily, who are a constant source of delight and inspiration; and our son-in-law, Richard Lee. I would not have been able to accomplish everything I've accomplished without the support of my home team.

Collaborating on a Vision

Today is just my first day at the University of Rochester, so there will be plenty of time for me to work with you to develop and expand a vision for this place. I won't be able to do it alone. Indeed, I don't intend to do it alone. I look forward to working collaboratively with all of you to help us reach our goals. *Meliora!* 📍

To see the entire introductory ceremony, visit Rochester.edu/presidential-search. The site includes additional videos and photos, along with details about the search process. There's also a form that visitors can use to post welcome messages of their own for President Designate Mangelsdorf.

WHAT THEY'RE SAYING

High Praise

Members of the University community say they're impressed with Rochester's next president.

"We were in contact with more than 200 people in developing the pool of possible candidates to find the very best person to be the next president of the University of Rochester. I am thrilled that Sarah Mangelsdorf is that leader. Sarah is super smart, an empowering, compassionate, and kind leader, is expert at managing complexity and overcoming challenges, and will work tirelessly in tandem with our students, faculty, staff, and trustees to make the University of Rochester the best it can be. When people meet her, there will be no doubt why she was the unanimous choice of every constituency on the search committee as well as the entire Board of Trustees. I can't wait to work with her!"

—**Richard Handler '83**, chair, University Board of Trustees, and a member of the Trustees' Presidential Search Committee that selected the new president

"Sarah has a breadth and depth of experience that equips her well to be successful as Rochester's president. Throughout her career, colleagues have praised her as a collaborative trust-builder who works hard to understand how to help every part of her institutions succeed. She immediately stood out to the search committee as an exceptional candidate for our next president."

—**Cathy Minehan '68**, a University trustee who cochaired, with board chair emeritus Danny Wegman, the Trustees' Presidential Search Committee

"Sarah is a remarkable candidate and will be a fabulous president. Her research on child development is very highly regarded and is a great academic fit for Rochester. She has an incredible range of administrative experience and a reputation for working closely and transparently with faculty, staff, and students in a spirit of collaboration. I am genuinely excited about the University's prospects under her leadership."

—**Michael Scott**, the Arthur Gould Yates Professor of Engineering in the Department of Computer Science, who cochaired with Anne Nofziger, associate professor of family medicine and director of the primary care clerkship program, the University Advisory Committee, one of three committees that supported the trustees' committee

"You can tell she is a genuine person of high integrity, and she'll be all in and 100 percent invested. She'll pour her heart and soul into this University."

—**Sarah Walters '13, '15 (MS)**, a doctoral student in optics, who cochaired the Student Advisory Committee, with Hannah Dick '19E, '19RC, and was a member of the University Advisory Committee

"This is a historic moment for the University. She brings a lot of perspective, coming from the field of psychology with a career ranging from professor to administrator. She'll bring new ideas, and that's what we need."

—**Jamal Holtz '20**, a political science major from Washington, D.C., and vice president of the Students' Association of the College