

School of Business Administration Dean John D. Mittelstaedt died in hospice on Tuesday, Dec. 8, after a long battle with cancer.

“John Mittelstaedt was an academically astute, innovative and inspiring leader for the SBA,” said Provost Paul Benson. “He connected deeply with the Catholic and Marianist mission of the School and the University, quickly becoming a cherished — indeed, a beloved — colleague on our academic affairs team.”

President Eric F. Spina said Mittelstaedt's legacy will reflect his humanity and people-centered approach to leading the school, in addition to his grace and courage (and indomitable spirit) during his illness.

“John loved the people of the University, and they loved him right back,” Spina said. “His genuine care and concern for each member of the SBA community made the school better and is a lasting legacy of his deanship.”

Mittelstaedt, dean since 2017, led the business school through the re-accreditation process with AACSB International, the oldest and most prestigious accreditation organization for business education in the world. Achieving the AACSB seal of approval is considered the gold standard for business education. The University of Dayton is one of only 189 that hold accreditation in business and accounting.

During his tenure, Mittelstaedt also helped to launch, grow and support new master's programs, including the degrees in finance, professional accountancy, and business analytics, as well as MBA@Dayton — a hybrid online program in which he regularly served as a guest speaker for the servant leadership immersion, even inspiring one student so much that the alumnus now keeps a quote from Mittelstaedt on his desk to look at every day.

Mittelstaedt also developed and began the process of implementing the SBA strategic plan; played an integral role in bringing outside funding from the Dayton Foundation for Flyer Investments to manage through the Davis Center; expanded the advising center; was involved in the hiring of many outstanding new faculty; and elevated support for the research and teaching activities of the entire faculty. He also was influential in the entrepreneurship program, serving on the inaugural board of directors of The Hub powered by PNC Bank, supporting creation of the Greater West Dayton Incubator, and inspiring and helping fundraise for the micro-loan program with a Marianist organization in Nairobi, Kenya (IMANI).

With a career of more than 20 years as an administrator, scholar and teacher before coming to UD, Mittelstaedt had a wealth of experience in macromarketing, especially in the areas of sustainability, religion, markets and international trade. He held a doctorate in marketing from the University of Iowa, a master's degree in theological studies from Harvard Divinity School, and a bachelor's degree in physics and religion from Saint Olaf College.

He and his wife Patrice Noel have two children, Matthew, who will graduate from UD in May, and Marlow, a student in the Oakwood school district.

Information on services will be shared when available.