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# CRAIN'S DETROIT BUSINESS

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## New UDM president's tasks: Broaden reach, raise black grad rate

By [Dustin Walsh](#)

The **University of Detroit Mercy** last week named Antoine Garibaldi, currently president of **Gannon University** in Erie, Pa., as its new president.

Garibaldi will succeed Gerard Stockhausen, who stepped down in June after 10 years to take a leadership position with the **Jesuit Conference** in Washington.

Garibaldi said he will develop a strategic plan before assuming the role on July 1.

"The priorities will be to look at programs to find ways to make them more efficient and what new programs we can offer," he said. "Enrollment is always a top priority at universities these days because of the recession."

He will work to raise awareness of UDM programs to create a larger footprint in the community, he said.

Garibaldi also will be tasked with improving UDM's substandard graduation rate for black students.

Only 36.1 percent of black students graduate from UMD within six years of enrolling, the seventh-worst rate among private universities, according to a 2009 report by Washington, D.C., think tank **The Education Trust**.

Garibaldi has researched and written books on the education of black students and intends to work with the metro area's public school systems to identify factors that are inhibiting education.

"We wanted a president that has a special understanding of student needs, can work with the board of trustees and understand how we can use our resources to help Southeast Michigan," said UMD Board of Trustees Chairman John Lewis, managing director of **Donnelly Penman & Partners** in Harper Woods and retired **Comerica Inc.** vice chairman.

Garibaldi has a track record of successful fundraising as well, leading Gannon's most successful campaign, which raised \$31.5 million in private gifts and \$8 million in foundation and government grants.

He also doubled the university's endowment during his nine-year tenure and increased enrollment by 24 percent.

"We looked for somebody who has the skills to raise funds, but we were looking for so much more than that too,"



**Garibaldi**  
University of Detroit Mercy

Lewis said.

Garibaldi will step into the role at UDM as the first non-cleric in the Catholic university's 133-year history.

Non-clerics have overtaken nuns and priests as presidents in the past 10 years, with more than half of current presidents at U.S. Catholic colleges and universities being laypeople, said Michael Galligan-Stierle, president and CEO of the Washington, D.C.-based **Association of Colleges and Universities**.

"As more and more Catholics have become engaged in higher education, they have become more and more engaged in university work and have an expertise that only nuns and priests had in the past."

Garibaldi was Gannon's third non-clerical president.

Before joining Gannon, Garibaldi was a senior fellow at the **Educational Testing Service**.

He also served as the first provost and chief academic officer and a tenured professor in the school of education at **Howard University** and served as chairman of the education department, dean of arts and sciences, and vice president for academic affairs at **Xavier University of Louisiana**.

Garibaldi earned his doctoral degree in educational psychology from the **University of Minnesota** in 1976 and his bachelor's degree in sociology from Howard University in 1973.

He holds honorary doctorates from **Seton Hall University** in New Jersey and **Our Lady of Holy Cross College** in New Orleans and sits on several scholarly and professional boards.

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