
Site Visit Team Bios

DR. MARIE HARDIN, Site Visit Team Chair

Dean, Donald P. Bellisario College of Communications, Pennsylvania State University

Dr. Marie Hardin has been dean of the Donald P. Bellisario College of Communications since 2014. Under her leadership, the Bellisario College — the largest accredited mass communications program in the country — has bolstered its reputation for high-quality undergraduate and graduate education, broadened its impact in interdisciplinary research and expanded its outreach. Its success is due largely to its internationally renowned faculty and to a highly collegial, collaborative culture fostered by employees and students, with Hardin's leadership. [Read more.](#)

DR. BRIAN BUTLER

Dean, College of Communication and Information Sciences, University of Alabama

Dr. Brian Butler is a nationally recognized leader in the study of online communities, social media and organizational resilience. Prior to joining UA, Dr. Butler was a professor and leader at the University of Maryland, where he served as the founding co-director of the interdisciplinary Social Data Science Center, director of the Master of Information Management program, interim dean and senior associate dean. He holds degrees in computer science, information systems and business from Carnegie Mellon University. [Read more.](#)

BARBARA COCHRAN

President, Fallen Journalists Memorial Foundation and Professor Emeritus at the Missouri School of Journalism

As president of the Fallen Journalists Memorial Foundation, Barbara Cochran leads an organization focused on building in Washington, D.C., a memorial to fallen journalists. At Missouri, she held the Curtis B. Hurley Chair in Public Affairs Journalism and directed the school's Washington program. Before joining the faculty, Cochran held top positions in print and broadcast journalism and in the nonprofit world, including managing editor of the Washington Star, vice president for news for National Public Radio, executive producer of NBC's Meet the Press and vice president and Washington bureau chief for CBS News. [Read More.](#)

CHIP MAHANEY

National Director, News Recruitment for the E. W. Scripps Co.'s Broadcast Division

Chip Mahaney is an award-winning journalist and veteran news leader who has served in several digital management roles at The E.W. Scripps Company. He currently leads recruiting efforts for top management positions at the 24 Scripps markets with local news, focusing on openings for news directors, assistant news directors and executive producers. He has received an Edward R. Murrow Award and an Emmy Award and is a nationally recognized trainer on journalism ethics, newsroom operations and digital and social media.

[Read more.](#)

DR. DIANA MARTINELLI

Vice Dean, College of Creative Arts and Media, West Virginia University

Dr. Diana Martinelli was named vice dean of the College of Creative Arts and Media in 2024, after serving as the dean of the College of Media for five years, the college's associate dean for eight years and as acting dean from 2015-2016. Under her leadership, the College of Media received full ACEJMC reaccreditation and earned the Certification for Education in Public Relations. She has helped facilitate the development of new interdis-

ciplinary majors and has received university-wide teaching awards at both WVU and Ohio University, where she was previously on faculty. [Read more.](#)

DR. JANET ROSE

Professor of Practice/Director of The Agency, William Allen White School of Journalism and Mass Communications, University of Kansas

Dr. Janet Rose joined the School of Journalism in August 2014 to create a real-world strategic communications agency and further expand the school's capabilities in strategic communications. Her academic emphasis focuses on understanding consumers and cultural trends to identify intersections of strategic business and marketing opportunity. Dr. Rose has worked as an executive for consulting and advertising agencies and has founded and been a consultant to numerous entrepreneurial organizations and start-ups. [Read more.](#)

BRIAN SHEEHAN

Professor, S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications, Syracuse University

Brian Sheehan has been a professor at Syracuse since 2008, where he teaches courses in advertising, advertising management, advertising strategy, digital advertising and international advertising. Prior to his switch to academia, he spent 25 years with Saatchi & Saatchi Advertising and then nine years as chairman and CEO of Team One Advertising in Los Angeles. In his career, he has worked with many top national and international brands, including Toyota, General Mills, Procter & Gamble, Hilton, British Airways, IKEA, TIME, News Corporation, Bayer, DuPont, Sara Lee, Kodak, Ritz-Carlton, Castrol and Hewlett-Packard. [Read more.](#)

WILL SUTTON

Columnist and Editorial Writer, The Times-Picayune/The Advocate/NOLA.com

Will Sutton is a veteran journalist and senior editor who joined The Times-Picayune|The Advocate and NOLA.com as a columnist and editorial writer in late September 2019. Sutton has had a distinguished career in daily journalism, higher education, communications and marketing. During his career, Sutton worked for the Courier-Post in Cherry Hill, New Jersey, the Philadelphia Inquirer, the Post-Tribune in Gary, Indiana, and as senior editor at The News & Observer in Raleigh, North Carolina, where he led award-winning editing, features, graphics, photo and sports coverage. [Read more.](#)