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MERCY UNIVERSITY AND THE PIERCE COLLEGES OF FUNERAL SERVICE SIGN ARTICULATION AGREEMENT FOR OPERATIONS MANAGEMENT DEGREE

This first-of-its-kind program offers funeral service students and professionals a path to business management.

Dobbs Ferry, New York – Today, Mercy University announced it has signed an Articulation Agreement with the Pierce Colleges of Funeral Service (Dallas Institute of Funeral Service, Gupton-Jones College of Funeral Service, and Mid-America College of Funeral Service) to offer its new business program in Operations Management that aims to provide funeral service students and professionals with the necessary skills to effectively manage a funeral home or establish their own business. Through this first-of-its-kind program, current students and graduates with an associate degree in Mortuary Science can now earn a bachelor’s degree in business management in as little as 12 to 18 months. Enrolled students can now earn their Associates and Bachelor’s Degree concurrently, or continue on to the Bachelors program after graduating from one of the Pierce College.

“At Mercy University, we are committed to providing high-quality education and developing innovative programs that respond to the needs of the labor market and prepare graduates for successful careers,” said **Brian Amkraut, vice president of Workforce Credentialing and Community Impact at Mercy University**. “We are proud to work with the Pierce Colleges of Funeral Service to offer an unprecedented program that will equip funeral service professionals with the skills they need to excel in business management and support the overall growth of the industry. This is the first of several articulation agreements we have been working on with Accredited Mortuary and Funeral Service Colleges.”

“Pierce Colleges of Funeral Service is focused on providing the best education possible for students and service to the funeral profession and is excited to be a part of this long overdue universal acceptance of the Mortuary Science associate degree program by a Regionally Accredited University, generating a whole new unique path to higher education, certifications, and credentialing,” said **Joseph Finocchiaro, President and CEO**.

The Funeral Home Management program, which is part of Organizational Management program in the School of Business, combines funeral service expertise with business management skills to empower funeral service professionals to reach new heights. Faculty members are leaders in their field and bring years of practical hands-on experience to the classroom, ensuring that students receive a comprehensive and industry-relevant education.

One of the many advantages of this program is that it is entirely online, offering flexibility to students who can access their courses at their convenience. With asynchronous courses, there are no fixed class meeting times, enabling students to balance their studies with other commitments. Mercy University partnered with Vector Dimensions LLC (Vector D) of Rexford, New York to offer this unique program to the funeral profession.

Students can transfer up to 62 credits earned at an accredited funeral service mortuary college, allowing them to build upon their previous education and progress seamlessly towards their bachelor's degree. Additionally, as part of this articulation agreement students can simultaneously work towards completing their associate degree while embarking on their bachelor's degree, maximizing their time and efforts.

To learn more about Mercy's Organizational Management: Funeral Home Management program and how to apply go to <https://www.mercy.edu/academics/school-business/organizational-management-funeral-home-management>.

Accredited Mortuary and Funeral Service Colleges interested in an Articulation Agreement with Mercy University may contact either Edward Rogoff Erogoff@mercy.edu or Gregory Cassiere Gcassiere@mercy.edu

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About Mercy University

Mercy University is an independent, coeducational institution serving more than 9,000 students each year across campuses in Westchester, the Bronx, Manhattan, as well as online. It is a federally designated minority-serving institution and the largest private Hispanic Serving Institution in the state of New York. Mercy offers more than 100 undergraduate and graduate degree programs and certificate programs within six schools: Business, Education, Health and Natural Sciences, Liberal Arts, Nursing and Social and Behavioral Sciences. The institution also provides non-credit courses and certificates for adult learners looking to acquire new skills through CERTiFi by Mercy University. Mercy was founded in 1950 by the Sisters of Mercy whose mission of transformative education remains strong. For more information, visit www.mercy.edu.

About Pierce Colleges of Funeral Service

Pierce Mortuary Colleges have provided outstanding education to students pursuing a career in funeral science for over 100 years. Their schools are accredited by the American Board of Funeral Service Education, an agency recognized by the United States Office of Education. Dallas Institute of Funeral Service, Gupton-Jones College of Funeral Service, and Mid-America College of Funeral Service are single purpose institutions offering the Associate Degree in Funeral Service. For more information, visit www.pierce.edu

About Vector Dimensions LLC

Vector Dimensions LLC (Vector D) was formed by experienced higher education administrators and faculty consisting of a fourth-generation licensed funeral director, the grandson of a funeral director, and a business and economics professor associated with New York and Long Island universities. Formed by Brian Kasler, it seeks to provide educational pathways, instruction, and

bring new technology into the fields of funeral service and mortuary science, focusing on education and instructional course design.