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

Broadview, Illinois: Pierce Colleges of Funeral Service (Dallas Institute of Funeral Service, Gupton-Jones College of Funeral Service, and Mid-America College of Funeral Service) have signed an articulation agreement with Mercy University of Dobbs Ferry New York to offer the Organizational Management: Funeral Home Management Program within their School of Business to their students and graduates.

Through this first-of-its-kind program, current students and graduates with an associate degree in Mortuary Science can 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 any of the Pierce Colleges of Funeral Service: Dallas Institute of Funeral Service, Gupton-Jones College of Funeral Service, and Mid-America College of Funeral Service.

"Pierce Colleges of Funeral Service are focused on providing the best education possible for its 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.**

"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 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."

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.

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 the Pierce Funeral Colleges of Funeral Service, visit <https://www.pierce.edu/>.

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>.

Dallas Institute of Funeral Service and the Funeral Service associate degree program offered by DIFS are accredited by the American Board of Funeral Service Education (ABFSE), 992 Mantua Pike, Suite 108, Woodbury Heights, NJ 08097 (816) 233-3747. Web: www.abfse.org.

Gupton-Jones College of Funeral Service and the Funeral Service associate degree program offered by Gupton-Jones College are accredited by the American Board of Funeral Service Education (ABFSE), 992 Mantua Pike, Suite 108, Woodbury Heights, NJ 08097 (816) 233-3747. Web: www.abfse.org.

Mid-America College of Funeral Service and the Funeral Service associate and bachelor degree programs offered by Mid-America College are accredited by the American Board of Funeral Service Education (ABFSE), 992 Mantua Pike, Suite 108, Woodbury Heights, NJ 08097 (816) 233-3747. Web: www.abfse.org.

Mercy University is accredited by The Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE) and has recognized the accredited Funeral Service and Mortuary Science Program Degree and those who have graduated, currently attending, or have not pursued completing their degree.

Mercy University partnered with Vector Dimensions LLC (Vector D) of Rexford, New York to offer this unique program to the funeral profession.

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 C.F.S.P., 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.