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**UWF welcomes new associate vice president for University Advancement**

**Pensacola, Fla. – Nov. 3, 2016** – The University of West Florida announces Dr. Meredith Brunen as the new associate vice president of University Advancement.

“We are thrilled to have Dr. Brunen join the Division of University Advancement,” said Dr. Brendan Kelly, vice president for University Advancement. “I have no doubt that she will be an invaluable leader during this exciting time in our institution’s history. Her background in higher education fundraising and development will be an incredible asset as we launch our football program and approach UWF’s 50th anniversary.”

As associate vice president, Brunen will serve as a principal advisor to Kelly on all division matters and work with him to create an effective fundraising team. She will provide leadership, strategic planning, counsel and assistance to unit directors within the Division of Advancement on matters related to fundraising, accountability and staff. In addition to ensuring that the division’s policies and procedures are in accordance with best practices, the AVP also leads and manages campus-wide development activities in consultation with the deans and directors of individual colleges, schools, direct support corporations and athletics.

“I am excited and honored to serve UWF in this role,” Brunen said. “I’m thrilled to contribute to the progressive, flourishing advancement efforts and look forward to continuing to strengthen the valuable educational experiences UWF offers.”

Brunen formerly served as executive director of development for Northwest Arkansas Community College, where she led the institutional development team, directing all facets of philanthropic giving to the College—including annual, major and planned giving as well as special events, alumni relations and scholarships.

As a practitioner and contributor to her field, Brunen has conducted, published and presented research focused on fundraising for higher education. She is an active member of many national organizations, including the Association of Fundraising Professionals, the American Association of University Women, and the Council for Advancement and Support of Education.

As a result of her achievements both personally and professionally, she has been recognized on the “Forty Under 40” list by Northwest Arkansas Business Journal and as “Young Woman of the Year” at the Northwest Arkansas Business Women’s Conference.

To learn more about the Division of University Advancement, visit [uwf.edu/advancement](http://uwf.edu/advancement).

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