

Meghan Rehbein, Ed.D.

410 Garfield Avenue • Avon-by-the-Sea, NJ 07717

(203) 610-7273 • megrehbein@gmail.com

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Summary

- More than thirty years' leadership experience in philanthropic and higher education organizations.
- Led the women's college at a major research institution with more than 2,000 students
- Successful record of program and project management, including internal and external relationship management, staff mentoring and development, and creation and implementation of assessment protocols.
- Considerable leadership experience with program start-up, strategic and operations planning, project management, board relations and budget administration.
- Management experience through periods of accelerated growth, organizational change, and other challenging situations at multiple organizations.
- Experience building and maintaining an inclusive culture and developing shared governance and inclusive leadership practices.
- Experience with board development and governance, orientation and onboarding, and assessment.
- History of successful relationship building with peers and supporters, and a successful history of regaining as well as retaining relationships.
- Directed fund raising of more than \$100M in private contributions over thirty years; successful record of closing seven and eight figure gifts; and experience planning for, executing, and successfully completing comprehensive campaigns in multiple organizations.
- Qualitative research in leadership, gender, and challenge in the philanthropic sector.

Work History

Rutgers University – New Brunswick, NJ

Dean, Douglass Residential College (July 2022 – present)

Provide leadership to more than two thousand students, more than twenty-five staff and instructors, and affiliated faculty partners. Advance the college's mission to educate and empower Douglass students and provide oversight of the college's operations in fundraising, academic and co-curricular program development, external relations, internal and external partnerships, and budgeting.

Lead strategic planning and visioning for the College. Participate in the Joint Cabinet/Dean's Council for Rutgers-New Brunswick and the President's Administrative Council for Rutgers University. Serve as a member of the Institute for Women's Leadership, a consortium of units based on the Douglass campus, and as a representative for Rutgers and Douglass on the Women's College Coalition and the Big Ten Academic Alliance to Advance Women in STEM. Establish collaborative programs and relationships, both with University academic schools and centers focused on women's experience, and with external organizations. Work closely with the Rutgers University Foundation to foster alumnae/i and donor partnerships to benefit College programs and students and secure Douglass' financial future. Support the Chancellor-Provost's and President's vision for Rutgers University through College initiatives.

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Significant accomplishments:

- *Led a strategic planning process that integrates the College more closely with Rutgers University-New Brunswick and sets a future direction that builds on the College's strengths.*
- *Worked collaboratively with the RU-NB Chancellor, Rutgers Foundation, and Institutional Planning and Operations to plan for the first significant campus redevelopment and investment in more than forty years, including closing an eight-figure gift in support of the effort.*
- *Brought women's leadership development to the forefront of the conversation through enhanced partnerships with the Institute for Women's Leadership and consortium members.*

Director, Institute for Women's Leadership (July 2025 – present)

Lead a consortium of nine units at Rutgers-New Brunswick that center on the study of gender, women's history, feminist research, and women's education. Member units include department of Women's Gender and Sexuality Studies, Center for American Women in Politics, Center for Women and Work, Center for Research on Ending Violence, Center for Women in Business, Institute for Research on Women, Institute for Women's Leadership, Douglass Residential College, and the Women's Health Initiative. Serve as the chief administrative officer for programs managed by the IWL, including the Leadership Scholars Certificate program, the Gloria Steinem Endowed Chair in Media Culture and Feminist Studies, Alumni Media Mentoring, and lectures and seminars focused on women's leadership.

Instructor, Knowledge and Power: Issues in Women's Leadership (Fall Semester 2022 – 2024)

The mission course that all Douglass students take in common, Knowledge and Power is an introductory course in Women's Gender and Sexuality Studies that introduces key feminist theories, contextualizes them in the history of Douglass and women's education, and helps first year and transfer students navigate the complexities of Douglass and Rutgers.

Associate Dean for Strategic Initiatives, Douglass Residential College (March 2020 – June 2022)

Reporting to the Dean to manage college operations, communications, and strategic projects. Leading the organization through the considerable uncertainty of the COVID-19 pandemic, promoting an inclusive culture with greater opportunities for shared governance, and managing compliance and legal obligations related to MOUs and other formal agreements. Serving as the Dean's Chief of Staff, provide strategic and operational support, and represent the Dean and the College.

Significant accomplishments:

- *Oversaw the successful transition to remote and virtual programming as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic that continued in a phased return to in-person work that resulted in higher staff morale, and an increase in both student and alumni participation.*
- *Working with the Rutgers University Foundation and Office of the General Counsel, developed clear and compelling case for renegotiation of problematic MOUs, and provided strategic support throughout the negotiations.*
- *Developed a five-year business plan that provided a forecast of personnel and operational expenses to ensure sustainable growth and alignment between spending and mission.*

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Assistant Dean for Advancement, Douglass Residential College (September 2018 – March 2020)

Reporting to the Dean and working with the Rutgers University Foundation leadership to develop a culture of philanthropy at Douglass Residential College after a period of notable change both in the structure of Douglass and the relationship with the alumni association. Managing development and alumni relations staff to engage alumni in the work of the college, and secure resources from a portfolio of major gift prospects. Creating and implementing a stewardship plan that acknowledges the significant support provided by alumni while maintaining clear lines of communication towards future engagement with Douglass. Managing the Advisory Board, including recruitment, governance, and oversight.

Significant accomplishments:

- *Successfully closed the public phase of Douglass' first campaign with \$15M raised in support of the College, 40% over goal.*
- *Developed and instituted a donor stewardship plan that complies with the relevant MOU and drives alumni engagement with college programs and students.*
- *Implemented a process to ensure funds are spent according to donor intent that maximizes the percentage of the operating budget funded through contributions and earnings on endowment.*

Georgian Court University - Lakewood, NJ

Vice President for Institutional Advancement (December 2017 – September 2018)

Reporting to the President, leading, designing, and implementing a plan to increase, diversify, and sustain a philanthropic culture. Building collegial relationships with university leadership, faculty, and high-level volunteers to ensure a coordinated effort with respect to campaign gift identification, cultivation, solicitation, and stewardship. Providing support, advice, and ongoing education to the Board of Trustees for institutional advancement and board governance. Identifying and managing a select portfolio of principle gift prospects, and devising cultivation, solicitation, and closure strategies. Managing a team of ten development, alumni relations, and advancement services professionals.

Significant accomplishments:

- *Stabilized and reorganized an advancement staff in transition, and rebuilt relationships with staff and administrators on campus to reestablish confidence in advancement operations.*
- *Rolled out a reporting to campus departments on funds raised in support of their efforts.*
- *Successfully rebooted annual giving, resulting in a 7% increase in revenue, a 10% increase in individual donors, donor retention of more than 65%, and a 24% increase in \$1,000+ donors.*
- *Led a reimagining of alumni relations programming, resulting in a 33% increase in alumni attending an event or participating in an activity.*

Director of Development and Advancement Services (July 2013 – November 2017)

Managed annual, major, and planned giving operations, in addition to advancement services. Instituted a major gift initiative to triple the number of prospects under management and increase major gift funding. Personally closed planned and major gifts of more than \$1.1M. Implemented structural changes to programs to increase efficiency and transparency, better forecast results, and effectively measure performance against a range of metrics beyond dollars raised. Managed a team of five development and advancement services staff.

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Monmouth County SPCA - Eatontown, NJ

Director of Development (January 2011 – June 2013)

Oversaw fundraising of more than \$1.5m annually through major gifts, direct mail, social media, events, and planned gifts. Created reporting system and made structural changes to development program to decrease costs. Decreased cost to raise a dollar by more than 10% over two years, and increased donor retention by more than 5%. Increased overall organizational efficiency and worked with the ED and Board of Directors in annual and strategic planning. Managed development staff of three.

Seabrook, an Erickson Living Community - Tinton Falls, NJ

Director of Philanthropy (March 2007 – January 2011)

Developed and implemented a comprehensive philanthropy program. Created annual operations plan and budget for the department, managed 50-person prospect list, and ran annual giving campaigns for staff, residents, and outside donors. Managed public philanthropic outreach including volunteerism, matching gift program, and Corporate Philanthropy budget.

Stockton University - Pomona, NJ

Assistant to the Chief Development Officer (June 2006 – March 2007)

Provided management support to Chief Development Officer, developed campaign structure and prospect pool for major gift fundraising, oversaw reorganization of scholarship program, functioned as Foundation Board liaison, ensured accurate and timely reporting.

Habitat for Humanity of Coastal Fairfield County - Bridgeport, CT

Chief Operating Officer (February 2005 – May 2006)

Ran day-to-day operations, including human resources, office management, training programs, family/homeowner/volunteer services, special projects, and IT; managed operations staff of four; coordinated annual and strategic planning activities; managed database; oversaw compliance with applicable legal statutes; coordinated organization-wide communications.

Director of Development (January 2002- February 2005)

Annual planning and budgeting for a \$2+M non-profit organization, administered all aspects of development; ensured communication between staff, board, and committees; oversaw database conversion to Raiser's Edge; wrote grants; solicited individual, corporate, and congregational supporters; developed sponsorship campaigns.

Volunteer Coordinator (June 1999- January 2002)

Developed volunteer program; created and maintained MS Access database of all organizational contacts; developed house sponsorship and corporate Team Building programs; worked to expand development program; provided office support to event planning committees.

Skills

- Strong writing, speaking, and interpersonal abilities.
- Knowledge of nonprofit reporting, auditing, and fiscal management requirements.
- Project management experience in nonprofit and higher education sectors.
- Experience building, managing, and assessing program, department, and organizational budgets.
- Proficient in Microsoft Office Suite.
- Experienced in Adobe Acrobat and Illustrator.

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Education and Certification

BA, Anthropology Hampshire College, Amherst MA, graduated May 1998

Thesis: Identity and Authority: The Second Vatican Council and Change in a Catholic Church

MA, Religious Studies Sacred Heart University, Fairfield CT, graduated December 2001

Ed.D., Organizational Leadership Stockton University, Pomona NJ, graduated December 2021

Dissertation: Navigating the Labyrinth: Women's Leadership Identity and Lived Experience in Nonprofit Organizations

Plus Delta Partners Discipline of Frontline Fundraising Rutgers University 2018-2019

Certified Fund Raising Executive 2012

Memberships and Associations

Member, Association of Fundraising Professionals 2007-present

Member, Association of Fundraising Professionals Research Council 2022- present

Member, Women's College Coalition Presidents 2022 - present

Jurist, AFP Emerging Scholar Prize 2023 – present

Member, Stockton University Organizational Leadership Advisory Council 2024 – present

Member, Hampshire College Campaign Council 2019-2026

Member, Avon-by-the-Sea Board of Education 2021-2024

Member, National Association of Charitable Gift Planners 2007 – 2020

Board Member and Treasurer, Avon Home and School Association 2015-2017

Board Member and Membership Chair, Gift Planning Council of NJ, 2015-2016

Board Member and Secretary, MODC Education Foundation, 2013-2016

Past Committee Member, United Way of Monmouth County

Past Board Member, Brookdale Community College Foundation

Publications and Presentations

[forthcoming] **Rehbein, M.** (2026), *Rising through challenge: Practical implications for developing women and other leaders*. In Paradiso-Testa, M. (Ed.), *Transforming Traditional Dissertation Research into Entrepreneurial Impact: The Doctoral Journey in Education*. IGI Global Scientific Publishing. <https://doi.org/10.4018/979-8-3373-9315-5>.

Rehbein, M. (2025), *Keynote: The Role of Challenge in Women's Leadership Development* at Jersey Shore Chamber of Commerce Women's Conference 2025

Rehbein, M. (2025), *Keynote: The Role of Challenge in Women's Leadership Development* at Union County Women Mean Business Summit 2025

Rehbein, M. (2025), *Bring the Heat: Learning to Lead through Challenge* at Girl Scouts in the Heart of Pennsylvania 2025 Embracing Ambition Conference.

Schaefer, S., Cox, M., Hasle, D., & **Rehbein, M.** (2024), *Women's Leadership Journeys: Success in the Face of Organizational Design, Diversity, and Imposed Imposter Syndrome* at Association of Fundraising Professionals ICON 2024

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Rehbein, M. (2024). *Interim*. In Mitchell, J. (Ed.), *Embracing Ambition: Empowering Women to Step Out, Be Seen, and Lead* (35-46). New Mexico: Mimbres Press

Rehbein, M. (2022). *Bring the Heat: Learning to Lead through Challenge*, at Association of Fundraising Professionals ICON 2022.

Rehbein, M. (2021). *Navigating the Labyrinth: Women's Leadership Identity and Lived Experience in Nonprofit Organizations* [Doctoral dissertation, Stockton University].

Rehbein, M. (2019). *Building a Legacy*, at Caregiver Volunteers of Central Jersey Board and Staff Retreat

Agnew, B, & **Rehbein, M.** (2017). Book Review [Review of *World Class Fundraising Isn't a Solo Sport*, by Buller, J. & Reeves, D.]. *The Department Chair*, 28(2), 29. <https://doi.org/10.1002/dch.30167>.

Rehbein, M. (2014). *Beyond Giving Tuesday: Social Media Strategies for Year-Round Engagement*, at Diocese of Metuchen Advancement Training Series

Rehbein, M. (2013). *Using Special Events to Build a Major Donor Pipeline*, at Diocese of Metuchen Advancement Training Series

Rehbein, M. (2011). *Social Media Fundraising*, at Animal Welfare Federation of NJ Annual Conference

Rehbein, M. (2008 – 2010). *Understanding Nonprofit Financial Statements*, annually at Seabrook Village Philanthropy Program Training Series

Gannon, M. (1998). *Identity and Authority: the Second Vatican Council and Change in a Catholic Church* [Undergraduate thesis, Hampshire College].