



CLEVELAND STATE UNIVERSITY

Harlan M. Sands, J.D., MBA Bio

Harlan M. Sands was appointed the seventh president of Cleveland State University through a unanimous vote by the CSU Board of Trustees on January 29, 2018. He will assume his new role on July 1, 2018.

With nearly two decades of experience as an administrator and faculty member at urban research universities, President-elect Sands is a highly regarded and widely respected higher education leader. He has a proven track record of advancing academic excellence, elevating faculty endeavors, championing research, and aligning strategies and operations to meet the emerging needs of higher education in the 21st century.

Sands comes to Cleveland State from The Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania where he currently serves as vice dean of finance and administration, chief financial officer and chief administrative officer.

In that role, Sands is responsible for day-to-day operations related to financial affairs, business affairs, human resources, information technology, and internal audit/institutional compliance, while also serving as a senior adviser to the dean on strategy and operations. The Wharton School was recently selected as the number one business school in the nation in *U.S. News and World Report's* 2018 Best Graduate Schools Guide.

Sands joined Wharton after serving as senior vice president of finance and administration, chief financial officer and chief operating officer at the University of Louisville. There, he was responsible for financial affairs, business affairs, human resources, information technology, internal audit/institutional compliance and other campus operations.

During his tenure at Louisville, Sands reduced operating costs, stabilized financial management practices, led the renovation and construction of campus facilities, initiated reviews of campus safety and security practices and implemented several large-scale, revenue-generating opportunities in enrollment growth, student success and business support.

Prior to his position at Louisville, Sands was vice provost for administration and quality improvement at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. There, he oversaw academic operations and administration for 12 colleges and schools. His responsibilities included budget and finance, enrollment management and student support operations.



At UAB, Sands restructured the Office of Enrollment Management and an institutional scholarship program, which resulted in a 50% increase in freshman enrollment over five years, a 25% increase in scholarship recipients and a 10% increase in net tuition revenue.

Sands also spent eight years at Florida International University, where he was an associate vice president for research, executive director of the Applied Research Center and assistant and associate dean of the College of Health and Urban Affairs. He was also a faculty member in the Department of Criminal Justice, where he drew on his experience as an assistant public defender in Miami.

Sands has more than 10 years of military service as a naval officer. He joined the military after receiving his Bachelor of Science in Economics from The Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania in 1984. He also holds an MBA with a major in finance from George Washington University and a J.D. from George Mason University.

Sands has served on numerous boards, including those of Southern Light Rail, University Medical Center, the Louisville Metro Police Department Foundation and United Cerebral Palsy of Greater Birmingham.

Sands' wife of 17 years, Lynn, is an attorney. They have two sons, Samson and A.J.

###