Dedicated Leaders Advance Bucknell Partnership

Over the past five years, Mark Davies and Kurt Thiede have been at the helm of Bucknell University’s successful partnership with Posse and have championed the university’s recent move to partner with a third Posse site. Already recruiting students from Boston and D.C., Bucknell recently selected its first Posse from Los Angeles.

“We are thrilled with our Bucknell-Posse partnership. Kurt and Mark have been extraordinarily dedicated and enthusiastic advocates—plus they are just great to work with,” says Posse President and Founder Deborah Bial, an honorary Bucknell alumna. “We are so grateful for President Brian Mitchell’s leadership and are proud to work with the Bucknell team.”

KURT AND MARK HAVE BEEN EXTRAORDINARILY DEDICATED AND ENTHUSIASTIC ADVOCATES

As vice president for enrollment management at Bucknell, Kurt’s responsibilities include overseeing admissions, student life and financial aid. Mark is Bucknell’s assistant vice president for enrollment management and coordinates the transfer student, athletic and Community College Scholars programs, and is also the Posse liaison.

“Working with Posse is one of the best things I’ve had a chance to do professionally,” says Mark. “Posse Scholars have such tremendous skills, and helping them discover Bucknell and watching the energy they bring to our campus has been fantastic. We believe so firmly in what the Posse Program is doing for our campus and more importantly our young people. I can see Bucknell continuing to expand our partnership with Posse.”

Mark is an alumnus of Bucknell, where for nearly 30 years, he has played a lead role in the university’s effort to recruit and admit the most talented students while fostering a diverse campus community.

Kurt joined Bucknell in 2002 after 18 years at Muhlenberg College, bringing with him an extraordinarily successful track record for building strategic partnerships, like Posse, that lead to high-quality, diverse student enrollment.

“I am proud of the advancements we’ve made at Bucknell in the area of diversity; Posse was the beginning,” says Kurt. “In the past five years, we have established a firm foundation on which we will build additional partnerships and collaborations to identify and attract students who will help our campus community reflect better the changing national demographic and the shrinking global community.”

WE BELIEVE SO FIRMLY IN WHAT THE POSSE PROGRAM IS DOING FOR OUR CAMPUS

Kurt and Mark are both Pennsylvania natives. Mark holds a master’s degree from Duke University. He and his wife Kathy have three children. Kurt received a master’s in higher education administration from the University of Vermont and a philosophy degree from Barrington College in Rhode Island (now merged with Gordon College in Massachusetts). He is also an alumnus of the Harvard Institute of Educational Management. He and his wife Laura have two children.

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Seaver College, has a student population of over 3,000. Students have more than 100 majors and degree programs to choose from, the most popular of which include business, communications and natural and social sciences.

As Pepperdine prepares to welcome its first Posse, Hamilton will welcome its 10th Posse from Boston and first from Miami this fall.

“Posse students are leaders on campus,” says Hamilton President Joan Hinde Stewart. “We are pleased to have partnered with the Posse Program since 2001 and look forward to welcoming students from Miami in the fall.”

With this exciting expansion, Hamilton becomes Posse’s seventh dual-city partner institution.

“Hamilton has been an outstanding partner on every level, and we are thrilled that Posse Scholars from Boston and now Miami will benefit from a first-rate Hamilton education,” says Posse President and Founder Deborah Bial. “We are equally fortunate to be collaborating with Pepperdine and President Benton. The university’s deep commitment to excellence and service will be invaluable to the enrichment and success of our Scholars.”