



Andrea Kathryn Talentino

President of Augustana College

Investing in local communities

President Talentino, students, faculty and Augustana centers of excellence develop public-private partnerships that are strategic, authentic and distinctively community-based rather than campus-based — including projects to benefit Rock Island neighbors.

Philanthropy to support access

Fundraising for the college allows President Talentino to remove barriers for students and focus funding where they need it most, and positions her for innovative decision-making in capital campaigns.

Connection with student leaders

Collaborative conversations have shown President Talentino that leadership questions and challenges are similar at the student and executive levels.

Bridging differences

President Talentino's political science background — especially in civil conflict studies — has prepared her to negotiate across different viewpoints and disciplines towards mutual incentives for faculty and staff to create "a foundation for everyone to have a foothold."

Andrea Kathryn Talentino describes the role of college president as a process of balancing needs and interests.

"The role of a president is not omnipotent" she said. I cannot, nor should I, just change or do anything based on my own views. Collaboration is essential. And a full 50% of my job involves responsibility for raising money, getting out to see donors, talking with people and foundations. That's fun for me, because I get to tell the story of Augustana, and it's an amazing story to tell."

Part of the story involves a current buzzword in higher education: "transformation." Yet President Talentino has never seen students transformed by their college experience in the way, or to the extent, that it happens at Augustana.

She cites three reasons:

- 1) The college attracts students who are highly talented, but uncertain of their success and how to proceed.
- 2) The college community does a great job helping these students "take risks, use their agency and push themselves forward."
- 3) Peers contribute to support systems in a way that is unusual on campuses, and important to student success.

This perspective on the particular student experience at Augustana has aided President Talentino in many ways, from working with Student Government Association leadership to developing concepts behind the college's Bold & Boundless strategic plan — which she describes as not about the college, but about students "and the value to the world we want them to bring."

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Available for commentary on

- Building a community development corporation to benefit students, local businesses and the college neighborhood
- Civil conflict studies and the work of a college president
- Strategic thinking that goes beyond creating an action checklist towards a strategic plan that impacts competitive position and direction
- A campus master plan that advances the welcoming and developmental aspects of a residential campus, including the progression of transitional living areas into student villages
- Experience as a former college athlete, pro tennis coach and camp counselor, and what that brings to a college president's leadership style and approach to personnel development
- How informal connections with college students can make a difference—from talks with athletic teams, to taking a rafting trip on the Colorado River with incoming first-year students in their first experience of Augustana College learning

Professional experience

- Provost and V.P. for Academic Affairs, Nazareth College, Rochester, N.Y.
- Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and professor, Norwich University, Vermont
- Associate dean, associate professor and chair, political science dept., Drew University, New Jersey
- Assistant professor of political science, Tulane University, New Orleans
- Postdoctoral fellow, Woodrow Wilson School of International Affairs, Princeton University

Education

- B.A., political science, Yale University
- M.A., Ph.D., political science, UCLA
- M.B.A., organizational leadership, Norwich University

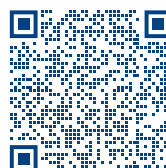
Published books

- "Intervention After the Cold War: the evolution of theory and practice," Athens, Ohio: Ohio University Press, 2005
- "Sport Boundaries, Sports Events, and Commodification," edited with Dikaia Chatziefstathiou, Cambridge: Inter-disciplinary Press, 2016

Speaking engagements

- Academic freedom and free expression in American higher education, Uppsala University, Sweden, Fall 2024
- "Educating for Civic Professionalism," in collaboration with Drury University and the New American Colleges and Universities CIC Annual Conference for Chief Academic Officers, Nov. 2020
- "Sport for Peace and Development," International Olympic Academy, Olympia, Greece, July 2015

LinkedIn



[linkedin.com/in/andrea-talentino-88044a5a/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/andrea-talentino-88044a5a/)