

RESEARCH | INNOVATION | SCHOLARSHIP | ENTREPRENEURSHIP

# UBRISE



## FRIDAY, APRIL 5, 2024

8:30 A.M. - 4:30 P.M. | ERNEST C. TREFZ SCHOOL OF BUSINESS



UNIVERSITY OF  
BRIDGEPORT



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# Welcome from the President



## Danielle Wilken President

Last year, we rebranded our 12-year tradition of Faculty Research Day as **UB RISE - Research, Innovation, Scholarship, and Entrepreneurship**. The change was designed to showcase the University's research and innovative projects, scholarly work, and entrepreneurial activities. It was a resounding success, gaining new participants from our student body, UB alumni, local high schools, Goodwin University colleagues, and the community.

We continue innovating by investing in the student experience, locating this signature event amongst the busy classrooms of Mandeville Hall and the Harrison Steans

Advanced Manufacturing Center. As a former faculty member, I know that the classroom is often the first place where thoughts blossom into world-changing ideas. We will give all attendees, especially our visiting high students, more opportunities to get to know University of Bridgeport. We want you to experience the “energy” of **UB RISE** as you view the posters, engage authors, and listen to panelists.

I am thrilled that **UB RISE** is scheduled during National Public Health Week and that many of our students and faculty will add their voices to the global conversation about health and wellness for individuals and their communities.

# Welcome from the UB RISE Chair



## Tim Raynor, DBA UB RISE Chair

I welcome you to University of Bridgeport's second annual **UB RISE**.

**UB RISE** serves as a testament to our unwavering dedication to UB's mission to “*promote academic excellence, personal responsibility, and commitment to service. Distinctive curricula in an international, culturally diverse supportive learning environment prepare graduates for life and leadership in an increasingly interconnected world.*”

Because **UB RISE** launches during National Public Health Week, we are taking the opportunity to recognize the contributions of medical and public health professionals, engage in a discussion of current challenges, and address how can we improve our nation's health.

This year's National Public Health theme is “*Protecting, Connecting, and Thriving: We Are All Public Health. Public health is more than just health care.*” To honor that theme, this year's **UB RISE** Keynote Speaker is Ms. Christine Squires, AmeriCares President and CEO. The mission of AmeriCares is to “*save lives and improve health for people affected by poverty or disaster so they can reach their full potential.*”

The day will be filled with brilliance and enthusiasm as we come together to learn about our contributors' ingenuity and the impact of their research and to celebrate cross-disciplinary creative endeavors at UB and in our community. Together, let us embrace the spirit of **Research, Innovation, Scholarship, and Entrepreneurship** at UB. Thank you for your unwavering support and participation.



### Special Thanks

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# Keynote Speaker

## Local Solutions for Impact in Global Health

Climate change, natural disasters, disease outbreaks, and record displacement all put health at risk. For 45 years, AmeriCares has confronted these challenges head on through partnerships with local organizations and health facilities. AmeriCares President and CEO Christine Squires will share insights into developing local solutions for global impact and supporting patients and communities — in times of disaster and every day.



### Christine Squires AmeriCares President and CEO

AmeriCares President and CEO Christine Squires leads a health-focused relief and development organization that saves lives and improves health for people affected by poverty or disaster.

By supporting over 4,000 health centers worldwide with transformative health projects, medicine, and medical supplies, AmeriCares improves the health of millions of people every year. One of the world's leading nonprofit providers of donated medicine and medical supplies, AmeriCares delivers over \$1 billion in aid annually to an average of 85 countries.

Squires has oversight of all AmeriCares operations worldwide, including more than 700 staff in eight countries: Colombia, El Salvador, Haiti, India, Liberia, the Philippines, Tanzania, and the United States, including Puerto Rico.


Squires has spent over 25 years championing humanitarian causes and has held numerous senior leadership roles within the nonprofit sector. Prior to being named AmeriCares president and CEO in 2020, she served as executive vice president and chief development officer responsible for critical organization-wide initiatives as well as all corporate, foundation, and individual giving.

Prior to joining AmeriCares in 2016, Squires served as chief operating officer for Physicians for Human Rights. Squires also headed up growth and fundraising for Human Rights Watch and spent 10 years at the United States Fund for UNICEF. She currently serves on the board of InterAction, the largest U.S.-based alliance of international NGOs and partners.

She holds a bachelor's in English from the University of Delaware and is a graduate of the Center for Creative Leadership's Executive Development Program.

## Schedule

 **Registration**  
**8:30 a.m.**  
Check-in at Mandeville Hall

 **Welcome and Opening Remarks**  
**9:05 a.m.**  
Mandeville Hall, Rm 104  
(Rm. 107, Room 1, Room 2 are Overflow Rooms)  
**Danielle Wilken, Ed.D.**  
UB President  
**Tim Raynor, DBA**  
Chair, UB RISE Committee

 **Poster Gallery Visit**  
**9:15 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.**  
Mandeville Hall  
Lobby | College of Health Sciences & College of Science and Society  
1st Floor Hallway | Master's Students

**Harrison Steans Advanced Manufacturing Center**  
College of Engineering, Business, Education | UB/Goodwin University Posters

 **Keynote Speaker**  
**11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.**  
Mandeville Hall, Rm 104  
(Rm. 107 Overflow)

**Local Solutions for Impact in Global Health**  
**Christine Squires**  
AmeriCares President and CEO

**Concurrent University Enrollment High School Participants Special Programming**  
Harrison Steans Advanced Manufacturing Center

**11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.**  
Campus Visit

**11:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**  
Lunch

**12:05 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.**  
Avangrid Renewable Energy Session

**1:05 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.**  
Avangrid Renewable Energy and High School Poster Awards

*Schedule continues to next page...*

# Schedule

## Lunch

**11:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.**

Marina Dining Hall

Music by UB Fusion Ensemble;  
Directed by Russell Fisher

**Student Entrepreneur Center  
Business Pop-up**

BLACC Bottle | Home Harvested  
Herbals | Purple Knights Coffee | Plant  
Positivity Yoga | Sandie's Sweet Success

**UB Tabling**

"What a Knight Needs" —  
Scholarships Universe

"LivinGUBuntu: A Pathway to  
Connect Us"



## Afternoon Panels

**1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

Mandeville, Room 104

**1:00 p.m. - 1:25 p.m.**

**Research | Responding to  
Problem Gambling at the  
Campus Level: UB's Journey**

**Moderator:**

**Fredrick Dombrowski, PhD, LMHC**  
UB Social Science Chair

**Panelists:**

**Fredrick Dombrowski, PhD, LMHC**  
UB Social Science Chair

**Janay Prim ('19), MS-LPCA**  
Department of Children and Families,  
Adolescent Specialist

**Kaitlin Brown, LPC, LADC**  
The Connecticut Council on Problem  
Gambling, Senior Director of Programs  
and Services Kaitlin Brown, LPC, LADC

**Rachel Vogt ('24)**  
Certified Addictions Counselor, MATS  
Counselor II Liberation Programs

**1:30 p.m. - 1:55 p.m.**

**Innovation | Innovation  
and Change**

**Moderator: Khaled Elleithy, PhD**  
UB College of Engineering,  
Business, Education (EBE), Dean,  
and Distinguished Professor

**Panelists:**

**Khaled Elleithy, PhD**  
UB EBE Dean, Distinguished Professor  
of Computer Science and Engineering

**Jim D. Andrews ('93), MS**  
Marine Corps Systems Lockheed  
Martin Sikorsky, Chief Engineer Director

**Ajay Shrestha ('02, '06, '19), PhD**  
Imagen Technologies,  
Engineering Manager

**Eugene Gerety ('24)**  
ASML, Senior Electronics Architect

**2:00 p.m. - 2:25 p.m.**

**Scholarship | Groundswell 2024:  
UB Students Express Themselves  
in Prose, Poetry, and Art**

**Moderator: Randy Laist, PhD**  
UB English Department Chair

**Panelists:**

**Hillary Bejar ('26)**  
English major

**Yemarah Dallas ('25)**  
English major

**Abigail Giron Marroquin ('25)**  
English major

**Angelise Melendez ('28)**  
Biology major

**Emily Ortiz ('26)**  
English major

**2:30 p.m. - 2:55 p.m.**

**Entrepreneurship | Creating  
and Growing a Business at UB**

**Moderator: Barbara Distasio**  
UB's Bridgeport Accelerator  
Program Mentor

**Panelists:**

**Necas Collins ('22) MBA**  
Founder of "BLACC Bottle"

**Judy Apicella ('22) MS**  
Founder of "Home Harvested Herbals"

**Nicholas Velez ('24)**  
Founder, "Herbal Hybrids"

**Kelly Elwood ('25)**  
Founder, "Plant Positivity Yoga"

## Awards Ceremony and Closing Remarks

**3:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.**

Mandeville, Room 104

**Manyul Im, Ph.D.**  
UB Provost

**Tim Raynor, DBA**  
Chair, UB RISE Committee

**Faculty Competitive Awards**

*Generously sponsored by  
Mutual Security Credit Union*

**1st, 2nd, 3rd Place,  
Honorable Mention Awards,  
Alumni Choice Awards**

*Generously sponsored by UB Alumni  
Association – Victoria Loe ('76),  
William Moran ('74), Lorraine Taylor  
( '76), Prof. Hal Tepfer ('78) and  
Board of Trustees Treasurer and  
Alumnae Barbara James ('74, '77)*



## Reception

**3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.**

Harrison Steans Advanced  
Manufacturing Center

Music by UB Fusion Ensemble;  
Directed by Russell Fisher

Autographed UB Authors,  
Alumni and Friends of UB Books  
Auction Winners and Giveaways  
will be announced!



## Afternoon Panels

Please scan the QR code or visit  
[bridgeport.edu/rise/speakers](https://bridgeport.edu/rise/speakers)  
to read the abstracts and each  
panelist's bio.

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