University School of Milwaukee Appoints Steve Hancock as its Ninth Head of School

Hancock to lead the state’s top PK–12 independent school starting July 1, 2020

MILWAUKEE, WI (September 23, 2019) – University School of Milwaukee has appointed Steve Hancock as its ninth head of school, effective July 1, 2020, the school’s Board of Trustees announced today. Hancock currently serves as the headmaster at Presbyterian Day School (Memphis, Tennessee), a role he has held since 2014. His hire concludes a national search to identify the successor to Laura Fuller, who announced earlier this year her plan to retire at the end of the 2019–20 school year, following nine highly successful years as the head of school.

Over his 30-year career as an administrator, teacher, and coach, Hancock has held increasing leadership positions at several other prominent independent schools. Prior to his headmaster role at Presbyterian Day School, Hancock served as the head of middle school, and then as the assistant head of school for academic leadership, at Princeton Day School (Princeton, New Jersey) from 2008 to 2014. He also served at The Westminster Schools (Atlanta) from 1999 to 2008 as both an orchestra teacher and performing arts department chair, and at Indian Prairie School District (Naperville/Aurora, Illinois) from 1990 to 1999 as both an orchestra teacher and fine arts department chair. Hancock was also the education director for Odyssey Atlanta, a summer program serving Atlanta inner-city youth on the campus of The Westminster Schools, from 2000 to 2008.

“We are pleased to welcome Steve Hancock to our school community and have him lead this exceptional school for many years to come,” said Stephen B. Guy, managing director, global investment banking at Baird, who serves as the president of USM’s Board of Trustees. “University School of Milwaukee’s strong national reputation and legacy of academic excellence afforded the school a very strong pool of qualified candidates from leading schools around the country, and to hire someone of Steve’s caliber reflects extremely well on USM. We look forward to officially welcoming Steve and his family to Milwaukee and our wonderful school community next July.”

A native of Waukesha, Wisconsin, Hancock graduated magna cum laude from Lawrence University, earning a Bachelor of Music in Music Education and Violin Performance. He later earned a master’s in music education, with an emphasis in curricular design, from the University of Illinois. He and his wife, Stephanie, have two children—a daughter, Emily, 21, and a son, Clayton, 18.

“I am humbled and honored to be the next leader of University School of Milwaukee. From afar, I have always greatly admired USM and its strong national reputation as a premier PK–12 independent school. During my campus visits, I was energized to see the importance of community at USM in action. USM has a very bright future and I look forward to building on its tremendous legacy.”

USM is nearing the end of its current seven-year strategic plan, which it introduced in 2013. The school has opened several new and renovated spaces on its 120-acre campus over the past several years, including, among others, the 3,336-square foot Lubar Center for Innovation and Exploration and the state-of-the-art Abert Tooman Center for the Arts, and is currently in the final stages of a $27 million

About University School of Milwaukee
University School of Milwaukee is an independent, coeducational, college-preparatory day school that educates students in prekindergarten (age 3) through grade 12. To learn more, visit www.usmk12.org.
comprehensive fundraising campaign, Our Common Bond. Unlike many independent schools, USM has a
significant endowment and no debt.

Hancock will inherit the reins to a school that was recently once again named as the top school in
Wisconsin by Niche. Over the last 10 years, the school has produced 86 National Merit Program finalists,
16 National Intel ISEF Science Fair award winners, 98 Scholastic Art & Writing Gold and Silver Key award
winners, and 36 individual and team athletic varsity state champions. USM is recognized as a leader in
its academic programs in innovation and entrepreneurship, global studies and world languages,
humanities and sciences, visual and performing arts, and Advanced Placement (AP) courses, and each
year the school’s graduates attend many of the top colleges and universities in the country. In addition,
USM is the only school in the country to offer capstone programs for students in grades 4, 8, and 12, and
offers juniors and seniors an internship and shadowing program of the scope and caliber usually
reserved for colleges and universities.

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