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New Dean of the CBOL

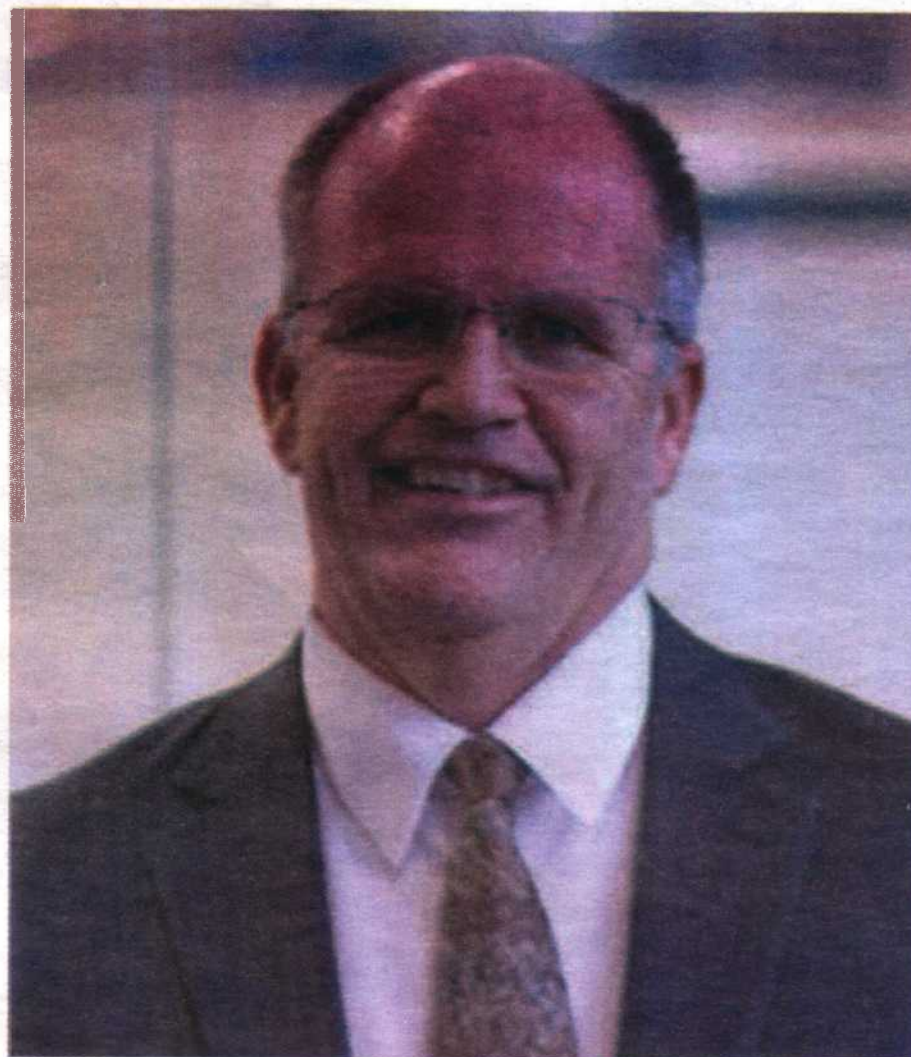
Dr. Kevin Hall Steps Up for CSP

By Seth Wehrs

CBOL, or College of Business and Organizational Leadership, is the program at Concordia which governs all business majors. In February of 2013, the Dean of the program, Bruce Corrie, stepped down in order to take a different position here at Concordia and the position was temporarily given to Vice President for Academic Affairs Lonn Maly while a committee was formed to find a permanent replacement. The chairperson of this committee was Dr. Kevin Hall, who has served in both Concordia's Department of Theology and Ministry and as Coordinator of the DCE Program since 2006.

Dr. Hall has an extensive background in the business world, having served at Camp Omega for 22 years, 5 as assistant director and 17 as director. During his time as assistant director, Dr. Hall decided to increase his business knowledge by earning a master's degree in business administration through Minnesota State University, Mankato. Then, in 2012, he went back to school again, this time to earn his Education Doctorate in Leadership. It was this background that led to him not only being the chairperson of the search committee, but ultimately the person that was considered the best for the job. When the search committee was first formed, Dr. Hall turned down the offer to be the new Dean, but when no suitable candidates were found, he agreed to use his background to benefit Concordia. The CBOL is not new territory to Dr. Hall, as he has taught classes in that department before and said he enjoyed working with the faculty.

When it comes to the direction that Dr. Hall wants to take the College of Business and Organizational Leadership, he has a solid plan. "My first course of action is to listen, both to the faculty, my colleagues, and to students, to hear about their experiences within the college and really get grounded in that before wanting to think about making any significant changes. I think it's a college that's done well, it's got a great faculty. I'm not coming in to fix anything, but rather to help it to grow. So as I think about major areas for us, one is to continue to find ways to make it the best education experience possible for our current students and future students. We have basically three groups of students; the undergrads who are here on a day to day basis, then we've got some online students, and then we've got our own MBA program. I'm looking forward to being able to grow those programs and then build quality within them. Thus, the main three points are growing enrollment, continuing to build quality, and lastly continuing to build partnerships within the business community and with some of our community college partners. I want to



think of this as a student-centered experience, from when the student enters Concordia to when they leave and go on to what's next. Just helping that whole process to be a positive and enriching experience."

With his student-centered approach and background in business and leadership, Dr. Kevin Hall is going to do the best he can to help Concordia's business program reach its full potential. It will be interesting to see how the College of Business and Organizational Leadership grows and flourishes under his guidance.



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