

# NEW AND NEW-TO-YOU: TRANSITIONING TO A NEW CHAIR POSITION

Dr. Christopher Barrick  
Director of the School of Music & Dance  
Eastern Michigan University

## Session Description

Whether you are chairing a department for the first time or starting a chair position at a different institution, your new job will be a challenging transition. Drawing from contemporary literature, personal experience, and the guidance of mentors, this presentation offers practical advice and best practices for adapting to your new position as chair. Topics covered will include: the importance of learning the history of your unit/institution, navigating the new lingo, information portals, managing the transition, learning how to lead the faculty, establishing your leadership style, administrative best practices, and practical suggestions. Sources include the presenter's experience leading academic units at three different institutions, numerous articles from the Chronicle of Higher Education, and expertise from noted academic leaders including Daniel Wheeler and Jeffrey Buller.