

NEWS RELEASE

April 20, 2011

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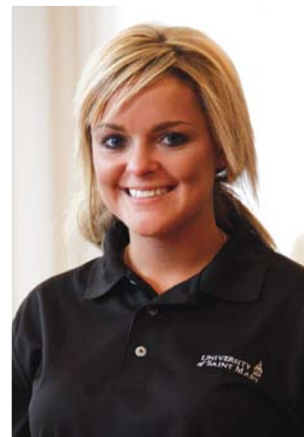


University of Saint Mary Hires Coach for Cheerleading and New Dance Program

(Leavenworth, Kan.)—The University of Saint Mary has named Andi Wiederholt as coach of both the Spires Cheerleading squad and the new Saint Mary Dance Team, scheduled to debut in the Fall 2011 semester.

Wiederholt, a native of Greeley, Kan., cheered for Pittsburg State, where she also earned her bachelor's and master's in communications. Wiederholt coached four all-star cheerleading squads for a private gym before coming to Saint Mary.

The USM Spires Cheerleading team was launched in 2009, debuting at the start of that year's football season. The dance squad is a new addition at USM—part of a broad expansion of Saint Mary athletics that also includes the creation of men's and women's cross country and track & field teams, both of which will debut in the 2011-2012 academic year.



Wiederholt

“I want both programs to become more than just a cheerleading squad and a dance team.” Wiederholt said. “I want them to be leaders on campus, and a truly positive thing for the university. Students should want to come to the University of Saint Mary to become members of those teams.”

Wiederholt said she hopes to eventually transform USM's cheer and dance programs into competitive programs. Her focus now is on recruiting.

The university currently has about 21 cheer students and eight dance students. Wiederholt hopes to up those numbers to 30 cheerleaders—with an even split of men and women—and as many as 35 dancers.

USM Athletic Director Rob Miller said Wiederholt is a great fit for the university.

“Andi has a great vision for the cheer and dance programs,” Miller said. “And when it comes to recruiting, she's focused on both talent and character.”

Saint Mary has 12 varsity sports programs—football, volleyball, baseball, softball, men's and women's basketball, men's and women's soccer, cross country, and track & field—along with co-ed cheerleading and dance. Visit www.gospires.com to learn more about USM athletics.

The University of Saint Mary is a Catholic co-educational applied liberal arts university founded and sponsored by the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth. The University of Saint Mary is located at 4100 South 4th Street, Leavenworth, Kan., with additional locations in Overland Park and Kansas City, Kan. Visit www.stmary.edu for more information.

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