

Bio

Dru Burtz, MBA, MA, has extensive professional experience as a senior manager in higher education, in Rome, Italy. She led and collaborated on many academic projects and proposal initiatives, and troubleshooted, mediated, and intervened to resolve emergencies and problematic issues for students, faculty, and staff.

As the Associate Dean of Academic Administration at the American University of Rome (Oct. 2017 - Sept. 2022) she sat on the Senior Advisory Council, working with senior management for the development of strategic goals and the academic mission of the university. She worked closely with the Dean of Academic Affairs and had a leadership role in reviewing, improving, and implementing school policies relative to student success, recruitment, admissions and retention, and created proposals and led projects for dual degree programs and partnerships. With the President's Chief of Staff she collaborated on administrative policy. As the Title IX Coordinator she mediated problems and led the review process. From March 2020, she was the Chair of the Planning and Response Task Force for Covid-19 and successfully led the campus community through the high stakes period of the state of emergency.

As the Director and Assistant Dean of the Peter J. Tobin College of Business MBA Program at St. John's University Rome Campus (May 2008 - Sept. 2017) she focused her energies on the day-to-day operations and on the strategic vision of the program. She was the Associate Director of St. John's University Undergraduate Rome Programs (Aug. 2005 - Apr. 2008), and was the lead for the development and management of the innovative academic program, *Discover the World*, a fifteen-week revolving study abroad program based in Paris, Salamanca (Spain), and Rome. Before joining St. John's University, she was the Administrative Manager of the University of Arkansas Rome Center.

Her experience and expertise in higher education encompass the three domains of understanding the academics and needs of undergraduate and graduate students, recognizing the importance of curriculum expansion, development and growth, and the need for financial viability for institutions of learning by raising visibility of programs to attract local, national and international students.

Earlier experiences in the US included work as the Associate Director of a not-for-profit local public access television station, Channel L NYC, Curatorial Assistant at the American Museum of the Moving Image (Astoria, NY) and Courseware Developer Consultant at Avid Technology (Tewksbury, MA). During this period she made short films.

Ms. Burtz received an MBA from St. John's University Rome Campus (thesis: A Survey of Sustainable Development: Understanding the Complexities and Contradictions), an MA from the New School for Social Research (thesis: The Hollywoodization of Cinecittà: The Impact of American Film Imperialism on the Italian Film Culture) and a BA from Tufts University. During her senior year at Tufts, she made a video documentary "Yuan Yunsheng: Portrait of an Artist." The documentary was part of an exhibition on the artist Yuan Yunsheng at the Tisch Family Gallery of Tufts University (Sept. 12 – Dec 3, 2017).

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