



**CHRISTINE M. RIORDAN, PHD
PRESIDENT**

Christine M. Riordan, PhD, is the 10th president of Adelphi University in New York, a top-ranked comprehensive university with more than 7,400 students and close to 2,000 employees, a \$200 million operating budget, and a \$226 million endowment. Appointed in 2015, Dr. Riordan is the first woman president in the University's 128-year history. She is recognized for her work to transform and personalize the higher education experience. With a strong record of driving growth and leading large-scale change, Dr. Riordan is **an established expert in leadership, team building, career success, and diversity, equity and inclusion**. She is also a **seasoned and respected board member** in the corporate and nonprofit sectors.

Dr. Riordan's vision has elevated Adelphi into a nationally recognized modern metropolitan university. She spearheaded the development of the University's strategic plan for 2022–2027, *Momentum 2*, with increasingly innovative goals and thoughtful input from more than 1,400 students, alumni, faculty and staff. Under her leadership, the University community has grown more diverse than ever and launched more than 50 new academic degree programs. Dr. Riordan has overseen the \$50 million renovation of the Ruth S. Harley University Center and the opening of a \$76 million, 100,000-square-foot academic building that houses Adelphi's top-ranked nursing school. Dr. Riordan also established Adelphi's highly regarded Office of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging and initiated a Diversity Certificate training program for its faculty, staff and surrounding community. Most notably, Dr. Riordan successfully led the University through two major turnarounds—the first in response to declining enrollment and the other in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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Adelphi continues gathering accolades under Dr. Riordan's leadership. In 2024, for the seventh consecutive year, *U.S. News & World Report* named Adelphi a Best College among national universities and named the University a Top Performer on Social Mobility. The media powerhouse ranked the Adelphi University College of Nursing and Public Health and Robert B. Willumstad School of Business among the top graduate programs for 2024. The University was included as a Top U.S. College by the *Wall*

Street Journal college rankings for the past seven years, and became the top-ranked university on Long Island in 2024. *Money* ranked Adelphi in the Best Colleges in America 2024. The Princeton Review again ranked Adelphi among the Best Northeastern Colleges in 2024 and included the Robert B. Willumstad School of Business as a 2024 Best Business School. In 2023, Adelphi was the sole national winner of the John L. Blackburn Award from the American Association of University Administrators for its Interdisciplinary Education and Training Experience fellowship program. Also, in 2024, Adelphi received the *INSIGHT Into Diversity* Higher Education Excellence in Diversity (HEED) Award for the seventh year in a row—a national recognition given to only 114 colleges and universities nationwide. For the past two consecutive years, Campus Pride has named Adelphi one of the “Best of the Best” LGBTQ-friendly campuses in America—one of 30 institutions with a perfect five-star rating.

Dr. Riordan is a respected and experienced board member. For more than nine years, she has served on the board of directors of RE/MAX Holdings Inc. (NYSE: RMAX)—a leading real estate and franchise company—for which she is currently chair of the nominating and governance committee and serves on the compensation committee. She previously served as chair of the board and a member of the executive committee for the Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities in

New York, the association for the more than 100 private colleges and universities in the state. During the COVID-19 pandemic, she co-chaired the Higher Education Restart Task Force to develop reopening guidance for more than 230 New York higher education institutions. She is a trustee, serves on the steering committee and is vice chair of the Long Island Regional Advisory Council on Higher Education board. She is a member of the Long Island Association (LIA) board of directors, a leading business organization on Long Island. Dr. Riordan is a National Association of Corporate Directors (NACD) Board Leadership Fellow, the Gold Standard Director Credential.

As an expert and influencer on leadership, team building, career success, and diversity, equity and inclusion, Dr. Riordan has researched, written about and consulted with corporations, senior executives and executive teams. She has published 70 academic and business press articles and is authoring a book titled *Shift Happens: How to Adapt and Thrive in a Rapidly Changing World of Work*. She has been interviewed by and written articles for media such as the *Financial Times*, *Harvard Business Review*, *Forbes*, *USA Today*, *U.S. News & World Report*, *The New York Times*, the *International Herald Tribune*, *HuffPost*, *MSNBC*, *CNN*, *CNBC*, *The Wall Street Journal MarketWatch*, *CareerBuilder* and *Psychology Today*. Dr. Riordan's TEDx talk, "Dare to Be Extraordinary," has received more than 29,400 views and her work has been cited more than 7,400 times by other authors. She has appeared in the press on leadership and higher education more than 200 times. Her work can be viewed at christineriordan.com.

Dr. Riordan's innovative leadership is widely recognized and honored. She received the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) Chief Executive Leadership Award in 2021 and the ATHENA International Leadership Award in 2020. In 2019, Georgia State University honored her as a Distinguished Alumna. *Diverse: Issues in Higher Education* magazine named her one of the 25 Top Women in Higher Education Who Are Making a Difference in 2018. On Long Island, Dr. Riordan was awarded Best College President in 2017, 2019 and 2020 by the Bethpage Best of Long Island Awards. She has been named one of the most influential people on Long Island every year since 2016 by the *Long Island Press* and by City & State New York since 2018. She has also been included on the City & State New York Higher Education Power List every year since 2021. *Long Island Business News* lists Dr. Riordan among its Long Island Business Influencers – Dynamic Women Leaders.

She received her MBA and a PhD in Organizational Behavior from Georgia State University. She earned her bachelor's degree in textile engineering (now called materials science engineering) from the Georgia Institute of Technology.

You can connect with Dr. Riordan by email at president@adelphi.edu and on LinkedIn, Facebook, Instagram and Twitter (X) [@PrezRiordan](https://twitter.com/PrezRiordan).

About Adelphi

A modern metropolitan university with a personalized approach to higher learning

Adelphi University, New York, is a highly awarded, nationally ranked, powerfully connected doctoral research university dedicated to transforming students' lives through small classes with world-class faculty, hands-on learning and innovative ways to support academic and career success. Adelphi is one of just four companies and the only university on Long Island to be named among America's Best Employers by State for 2024 by *Forbes*.

A surge in 2024 rankings by *U.S. News & World Report*—up 19 spots as a Best College, up 85 spots for Social Mobility and up 35 spots as a Best Value College—supports Adelphi's rising reputation. Adelphi serves more than 7,400 students at its beautiful main campus in Garden City, New York—just 23 miles from New York City's cultural and internship opportunities—and at dynamic learning hubs in Brooklyn, the Hudson Valley and Suffolk County, as well as online.

More than 121,000 Adelphi graduates have gained the skills to thrive professionally as active, engaged citizens, making their mark on the University, their communities and the world.

EMAIL [PRESIDENT@ADELPHI.EDU](mailto:president@adelphi.edu)
URL [PRESIDENT.ADELPHI.EDU](http://president.adelphi.edu)
T 516.877.3700

ADELPHI
UNIVERSITY
NEW YORK