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Jo Ann Usry Appointed Director of the Office of Equity and Diversity at The University of Scranton

Jo Ann Usry has joined the University of Scranton as director of the Office of Equity and Diversity. Ms. Usry's role is to "lead the university's efforts to make our community more welcoming and supportive of faculty, staff and students from diverse backgrounds," said Joseph M. McShane, S.J., president of The University of Scranton.

Prior to joining the university, Ms. Usry served as director of the Office of Diversity and Affirmative Action at the University of New York at Stony Brook.

Referring to herself as "a team builder and a facilitator," Ms. Usry said, "I see my first task at The University of Scranton as one of building teams and then moving forward with the teams to develop the campus diversity program."

"This is not my office, this is not my program, this is not my agenda," she continued. "It is the office, program and agenda of all the campus constituents."

A native of Babylon, N.Y., Ms. Usry received her bachelor's degree from Dowling College in Oakdale, N.Y., where she is a candidate for a master's degree in business administration.

Ms. Usry began her career as an employee relations specialist with the Long Island Lighting Company. She then served successively as a human relations officer at the First National Bank of Chicago, Uniondale, N.Y., and the director of the Office of Diversity Planning and Compliance at the New York State Office of Mental Health in Dix Hills, N.Y.

Ms. Usry, who resides in Dunmore, is the mother of three children – Joseph, Brian and Tiffany – and the grandmother of two. She is an ordained Evangelist Missionary for the Churches of God in Christ.