

BIOGRAPHY FOR MONICA DELISA

Monica Delisa is dedicated to helping others find and realize their passions through the power of higher education.

Born and raised in rural Arizona, Delisa was a 4-Her who received state and national recognition. She received her BS in Agricultural Communications from the University of Arizona (UA) and started her professional career as the administrative assistant to the development officer for the university's Boyce Thompson Arboretum. She was promoted to Director of Alumni Affairs for the UA College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (AGLS), moved to the role of Assistant Director of development for AGLS, and subsequently accepted a promotion to Director of Development for the College of Nursing at the University of Arizona Health Sciences Center. She successfully raised funding for the college's first endowed chair. While working for the college, she earned her MA in Journalism.

In 2003, Delisa was part of a five-person start-up administrative team to bring the Cristo Rey high school model to Tucson, Arizona. In 2006, she moved back to the Arizona Health Sciences Center as Director of Development for the Steele Children's Research Center. Subsequently, she was named Director of Major Gifts for the Arizona Health Sciences Center.

In 2009, joined the Texas A&M Foundation as Assistant Vice President of Development where she led the fundraising team for AgriLife, including the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, the AgriLife Extension Service, AgriLife Research, Texas A&M Forest Service and the Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory. She also led the advancement team for the College of Science, which raised the largest gift to that date in Texas A&M history during her tenure. Giving at AgriLife doubled and the endowment increased by 20 percent under her leadership.

In 2014, Delisa was named Vice President for University Advancement at Georgia College. The university successfully completed a \$30 million campaign in six years in January 2020, six months ahead of schedule. Giving to the university has doubled in her tenure, growing from \$2.5 million in 2014 to more than \$5.2 million in 2018 and the endowment has risen 31 percent since her arrival on campus. As part of the five-person President's cabinet, she works collaboratively on university management and direction, pursuing a collective goal of national pre-eminence.

In 2016, Delisa was awarded outstanding 4-H volunteer of the year for Jones County, Georgia and serves as a board member of the Jones County Cooperative Extension and 4-H Advisory Boards. She also volunteers as a board member for the Jones County Arts Association. She was chosen for the AASCU Executive Leadership Academy in 2019, the Texas A&M Leadership Institute in 2011, the YWCA Women on the Move Leadership Program in 1996, and honored with the President's Award from the Texas Beekeepers Association in 2012.

She is currently pursuing her doctorate in education from City University of Seattle, with an anticipated completion date of fall 2020. Her research focuses on the influence of participation by students in high-impact practices on eventual major gift alumni philanthropy. Delisa and her husband, Vince, have been married 32 years and have three adult children, Marlina, Gina and Sofia. They are also grandparents to William and Otis and are owned by Mee-Meow, the one-eyed assassin cat.