

ATS welcomes two new associate directors to advance Pathways for Tomorrow

BY HEATHER HARTUNG

The Association of Theological Schools (ATS) proudly announces the appointment of Lysette Flores and Tracy Riggle Young as associate directors of initiatives. These appointments expand the Association's capacity to lead the Pathways for Tomorrow Coordination Program, an initiative funded by Lilly Endowment Inc. that helps theological schools adapt to the changing landscape of ministry and build sustainable futures. Both will begin their roles in January 2026.

Flores and Riggle Young bring complementary expertise that will enrich the Pathways team. Flores has extensive experience leading contextual education programs, guiding virtual cohorts, and conducting program evaluation, along with a strong background in designing and reporting on grant-funded initiatives. Riggle Young offers deep knowledge of enrollment management, program development, and data-informed decision-making, as well as a proven ability to foster cross-institutional collaboration. Together, they will expand the Association's capacity to support theological schools and advance the goals of *Pathways for Tomorrow*.

The *Pathways for Tomorrow* Initiative is a multi-phase effort to help theological schools respond to shifting demographics, expand their ability to serve pastoral and lay leaders, and create models for long-term sustainability. Currently, approximately 175 ATS member schools are engaged in Pathways projects, and participation is expected soon to surpass 200 schools.



Lysette Flores

Tracy Riggle Young

Strengthening the initiative's impact

As associate directors, Flores and Riggle Young will advance these efforts by fostering peer learning, guiding grantees, and sharing insights across the ATS membership. They will design and lead virtual learning communities, manage grant reporting, and develop evaluation strategies to measure impact. Their work will ensure that lessons learned through Pathways strengthen theological education across North America.

Flores brings a strong background in theological education and program management. She previously served as assistant director for field education at Harvard Divinity School, where she guided student placements and improved reporting systems. She also manages a Lilly Endowment Thriving in Ministry grant, designing virtual and hybrid programs and partnering with Syracuse University and LeMoyne College to enhance curriculum. Flores holds a Master of Theological Studies from Harvard Divinity School and a Master of Arts in teaching from Santa Clara University.

Riggle Young comes to ATS after more than a decade of leadership in enrollment management at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary and Union Theological Seminary. Most recently, she served as associate dean of enroll-

ment management at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, where she oversaw recruitment, retention, and financial aid while developing hybrid and doctoral programs. Riggle Young has been an active participant in ATS programming, including Student Personnel Administrators Network webinars and the Women in Leadership cohort. She is a graduate of Denison University and Union Theological Seminary and began her career in education through Teach for America and

The Neighborhood Academy.

“These appointments reflect the Association’s commitment to equipping theological schools with resources and collaborative networks that foster resilience and innovation,” said Jo Ann Deasy, director of institutional initiatives and the new hires’ supervisor. “Lysette and Tracy bring exceptional expertise and vision to this work, and we are excited to welcome them to the team.”



Heather Hartung is senior director of programs and initiatives at The Association of Theological Schools in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.