

Christopher The to lead student data and research at ATS

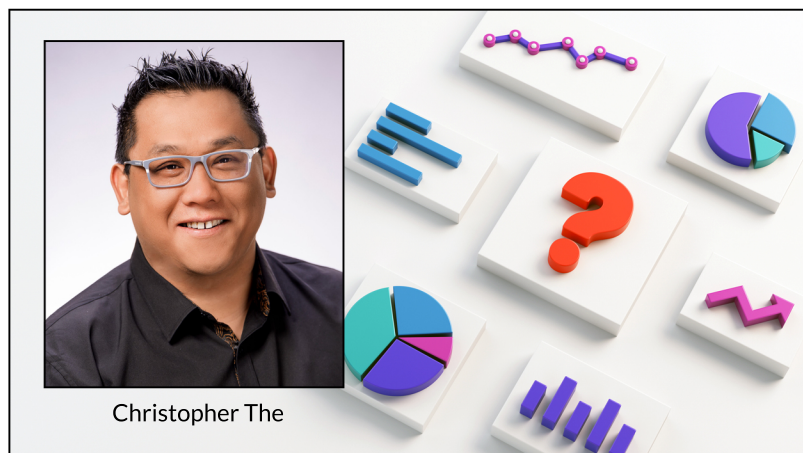
BY HEATHER CAMPAIN HARTUNG

The Association of Theological Schools (ATS) is pleased to announce that Christopher M. The (pronounced "tay") is transitioning into a new role as director of student data and research, a position that consolidates his extensive experience and leadership in student data analysis and theological research. While research has long been a part of The's portfolio, this new position reflects a shift to a full-time focus on research. His transition is a critical part of the growth of the ATS research team, as it more fully integrates student data into the Association's broader research strategy.

Reporting to Deborah H.C. Gin, director of research, The's new role reflects the Association's strategic commitment to advancing research that supports member schools through data-driven insights. The will continue to be at the center of the Association's student-focused research efforts, leading student-related research projects, working with member school representatives through the Association's student data and resources advisory committee, and contributing to strategic planning for research learning opportunities.

"Chris brings an essential combination of analytical depth and theological insight to our research efforts," said Gin. "His leadership will help us ask better questions, make important connections to important research in other sectors of the religious world, and ultimately support theological schools in ways that are both thoughtful and transformative."

Since joining ATS in 2017, The has served in a variety of capacities, beginning as director of commission information services, where he managed accreditation



records and supported the ATS Board of Commissioners. In 2022, he became director of student research and initiative management, overseeing student data initiatives as well as the virtual infrastructure for the Pathways for Tomorrow Coordination Program. Pathways is an important program of Lilly Endowment Inc. that is strengthening the capacity of ATS-accredited schools to prepare and support congregational leaders while promoting long-term institutional sustainability.

The will continue to support the Pathways program for a transitional period to ensure continuity and collaboration across ATS initiatives.

"Chris brings a strong commitment to data-informed decision-making and a passion for building systems that support our work at ATS," said Jo Ann Deasy, director of institutional initiatives, who directed his work with the Pathways Coordination Program. "He combines academic rigor with a deep care for the people and institutions we serve, and we're excited to see how his full-time focus on research will strengthen our collective efforts."

Prior to ATS, The held various student services roles at Fuller Theological Seminary and Azusa Pacific University, alongside pastoral service as a youth minister in Indonesian American and Chinese American congregations.

A published scholar and editor, he has written extensively on immigrant church engagement, theological education, and mentorship for doctoral students. He holds degrees in music, religion, ethics and theology, and a PhD in practical theology from Fuller Theological Seminary.



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

ATS is Hiring: Associate Director of Initiatives

As ATS continues to grow and reorganize to better serve its member schools, a new opportunity has emerged in the Pathways for Tomorrow Coordination Program. We are seeking a strategic and collaborative associate director of initiatives. This full-time, remote role includes periodic travel and offers a unique opportunity to support innovation, sustainability, and collaborative learning across ATS-accredited schools.

The person selected for this role will lead virtual programming, grant processes including reporting and evaluation, and help foster vibrant communities of learning among theological schools and their partners.

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