

# Lisa Kern to leave ATS after 22 years

By *MARISSA DECHANT*

*Lisa Kern, manager of member engagement, will be leaving ATS after more than 20 years to pursue a new career opportunity.*

She joined the ATS staff in 2003 as a communications coordinator, assisting with the writing, editing, production, and distribution of several ATS publications and event materials. She was part of the implementation and planning team for two different redesigns and launches of the ATS website, and she played an active role in establishing the Association's social media presence.

Kern has spent the past several years cultivating the group of marketing and communication professionals who work at ATS schools. During the pandemic, she and a colleague from the In Trust Center created an online interactive event—*Communicating during a Crisis*—to provide member schools with ideas and tools that can help them shape an effective crisis communication strategy and team.

In addition, Kern began hosting occasional virtual roundtable discussions for ATS marketing and communication professionals to network and share resources. The discussions were well-received and, due to the growing interest and a request for more, they are now held every other month.

Member engagement was added to her portfolio in 2019, when she was tasked with overseeing the launching, promoting, and managing of Engage ATS—the Association's first customized online community for networking and peer learning.

Kern will begin her new role as director of communications for the United Methodist Foundation of Pennsylvania in March.

"Lisa has always been a good colleague in the work of ATS, and she has done her work with excellence and the highest degrees of professionalism. We will miss her,

both for all that she did for ATS and for the person she is among us. I wish her nothing but blessings in this next stage of life," said ATS Executive Director Frank Yamada.

"I have had the pleasure of working with Lisa for more than two decades. Together, she and I have witnessed significant change at ATS. Through it all, Lisa has been a consistent positive and professional presence in our work with the member schools. I count it as a true blessing to have worked with Lisa, and I wish her the best in the next phase of her vocational journey," said Chris Meinzer, ATS COO and senior director.

"Although I've only been with ATS for a short time, it is already clear to me how much Lisa has meant to this organization," said Faith Jackson, ATS director of strategic communications. "Her deep knowledge, thoughtful approach, and genuine kindness have had a lasting impact on colleagues and the broader community. Throughout our time working together, Lisa has been a generous and collaborative partner—sharing her insights openly and helping to ensure a smooth and transparent transition. I know that everyone at the organization is grateful for her years of dedication, and I wish her every success in her next chapter."



Marissa Dechant is Communications Coordinator at The Association of Theological Schools in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.