

Marissa Dechant promoted to ATS content and communications manager

By FAITH JACKSON

As part of a strategic realignment to elevate its communications and deepen engagement with members and partners, The Association of Theological Schools (ATS) has taken steps to enhance its capacity for mission-driven storytelling and outreach.

Central to this effort is the promotion of Marissa Dechant to the newly created role of content and communications manager, effective July 1, 2025. In this position, Dechant is leading the development of digital content that reflects the mission of ATS and supports its strategic priorities.

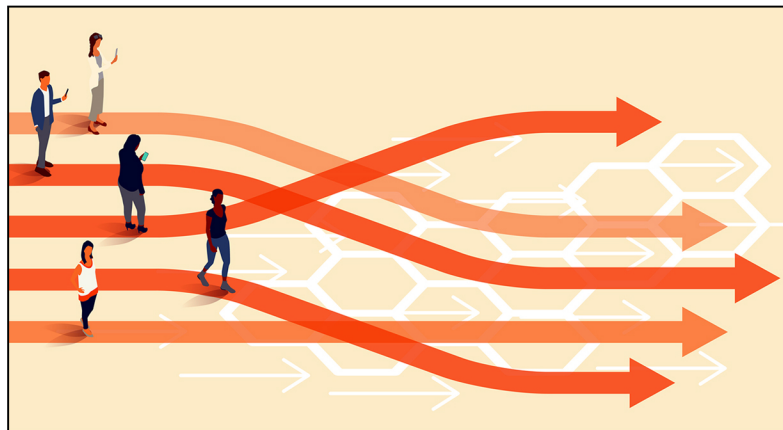


Dechant's responsibilities include managing the ATS website and monthly newsletters, overseeing social media, and supporting communications for key events. She will play a pivotal role in advancing how ATS communicates the value of theological education and the

cooperative work of its member schools.

Dechant joined ATS in 2018 and has served in roles including communications coordinator and executive assistant. Her thoughtful writing, attention to detail, and deep understanding of the Association's work have made her a trusted voice within the organization. Before joining ATS, she worked as a reporter for two Pennsylvania news publications. She earned a bachelor's degree in communications, specializing in journalism, from Clarion University of Pennsylvania.

"It's an honor to continue my career with ATS by communi-



cating the work of ATS and its member schools," Dechant said. "I'm excited to keep building meaningful connections through content that informs, supports, and inspires."

Building the communications team

To further support this strategic direction, ATS has also hired a communications and email marketing coordinator. This new role will focus on delivering high-quality email communications, managing CRM systems, and supporting member engagement through data-informed strategies. The coordinator will work closely with the communications team and staff across the organization to ensure that messaging is timely, accessible, and aligned with mission-driven goals.

Keep an eye out for an article next month introducing the new ATS communications and email marketing coordinator and further highlighting their role in this growing area of work.



Faith Jackson is director of strategic communications at The Association of Theological Schools in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.