

ATS staff members receive title changes

By *MARISSA DECHANT*

Several ATS staff members have undergone recent title changes to adapt to the everchanging landscape of theological education. These staff members have expanded their roles to focus both on ATS as a hybrid learning organization and as the future of theological education.



Debbie Creamer has been named strategic director of design. In this role, she works strategically to enhance the capacity and effectiveness of ATS as a hybrid learning organization and to foster a culture of creativity and innovation in both the work of accrediting and in the Association's programs and services. Her work includes leadership for planning, designing, implementing, and assessing synchronous, asynchronous, and semi-synchronous educational engagements for ATS staff, board members, member schools, and other stakeholders. In her role, she also serves as director of the [ATS Educational Design Lab](#). Creamer joined the ATS staff in 2013 as director of accreditation and institutional evaluation and served as senior director of accreditation from 2018 to 2020.



Stephen Graham has been named strategic director of context and continuity. He continues to oversee the work of the [Organizational and Educational Models initiative](#) and provides the historical perspective of who ATS is and what it has been as an organization. He works to contextualize the Association's past legacy and its present and studies how the two contribute toward the future. Graham joined the ATS staff in 2008 as director of faculty development and initiatives in theological education, was named senior director of programs and

services in 2013, and temporarily served as director of accreditation in 2020.



Alissa Horton has been named manager of data and reporting. In her new role, she collaborates on research projects through data scrubbing, manipulation, and visualization. She also oversees the [Annual Report Forms](#) data collection, vetting, and reporting, and she continues to support the information technology department. Horton joined the ATS staff in 2010 to support the business office and the information technology department.



Lisa Kern was named manager of member engagement to further the Association's mission by leading creative efforts to engage, inform, and support its member schools. She oversees the Association's online community, [Engage ATS](#), and strategizes with fellow staff members in their efforts to share resources and effectively reach their audiences. In addition, she serves as editor for the Association's [online newsletter](#), handles social media outreach, produces materials for events, and manages content on the Association's website. Kern joined the ATS staff in 2003 as communications coordinator.



Chris Meinzer has been named senior director and chief operating officer. In this role, he provides more oversight of the Association’s strategic and operational components, and he continues to supervise ATS administrators.

Meinzer joined the ATS staff in 1999 and has provided oversight of ATS financial and business affairs as well as the ATS institutional database. He has done extensive analysis and research of this data and presented his findings in a variety of settings to administrators and boards of theological schools.



Barbara Mutch has been named senior director of accreditation. She oversees the accrediting staff, who report to her for supervision, goal setting, and development. Her work includes facilitating accrediting reviews, providing education and support to member schools about the process of accreditation, and providing staff support to the work of the Board of Commissioners of the ATS Commission on Accrediting. Mutch joined the ATS staff as director of accreditation in 2015.



Meghan Niskach has been named coordinator for student personnel and questionnaires. She coordinates the Entering, Graduating, and Alumni Questionnaires for member schools—producing and distributing reports

from the data—and she supports gatherings for the questionnaires and for the Student Personnel Administrators Network (SPAN). Other responsibilities include creating resources for the questionnaires coordinators at member schools and overseeing online engagement of the ATS Student Questionnaires and SPAN communities on Engage ATS. Niskach joined the ATS staff in 2014 as administrative assistant for student information resources.



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