

## **MMU Grad Takes Job at Graduate Center**

By Derek Hamilton

News Editor

The new Masters of Strategic Leadership Coordinator has a unique perspective on the program. With an MSL degree earned from Mount Mercy University, Cherrie Spurlin says the process “completely changed my life.”

Spurlin, who is also an assistant professor at Mount Mercy, says the MSL program contributed to her decision to become a professor.

“I learned a lot about myself during the program. I learned that I could teach,” Spurlin said. “I developed wonderful relationships here with people that work for Mount Mercy and other alumni going through the program.”

After graduating, she became an adjunct professor, and once an opportunity opened to be full-time faculty, she pounced on it.

She says it was a mixture of experiences that prepared her for her role at the Mount Mercy Graduate Center, her business experience, and her leadership experience. Spurlin had been in charge of large teams before, and previously worked in human resources. She says she also understands what her students are going through, being working adults who are also in school.

“We really want program outcomes to be applicable to their work,” she said.

Spurlin believes she’s a good fit for Mount Mercy because she’s an “enthusiastic, positive, driven person.” She wants to see the university “grow and be innovative in the

community,” and she’d like to use her position here build new relationships for the university, as well as strengthen the ones the university already has.

“The program did so much for me,” she said. “I want to be able to replicate that, and give that back to every business leader in the community.”

Aside from her role at Mount Mercy, Spurlin is a wife and a mother to a daughter and two dogs. She also started the Business and Leadership Book Club, because she loves not only to read and learn, but also to share her knowledge with other people.