MAUREEN CURLEY

Maureen Curley joined the Antioch University Board of Governors in 2008. She will be stepping down this summer when her term ends. Maureen is an alumna of Antioch University New England and is deeply committed to the pedagogic practices and social justice values of Antioch University.

1 What drew you to serve on the Antioch University Board of Governors? What makes you most proud?

I was drawn to serve on the Board first and foremost because I’m an Antioch University alum. Attending Antioch University New England in the early part of my career was life-changing for me. Through its experiential approach, I was able to use what I was learning immediately as the executive director of a very new adult day care center. The faculty and my fellow students were open and supportive, and as a result, I successfully grew the organization and learned how to build a network of trusted and talented colleagues. At the time that I joined the Board in 2008, I was president of an association of college and university presidents, so serving on a university board provided insight into governance and higher education management that was extremely valuable to my job performance.

I’m most proud of Antioch University’s commitment to social justice. As an Antioch University student, I sharpened my skills as an advocate for the needs of clients, as well as social change in general. This experience has served me well throughout my career and life.

2 What contributions do you feel you bring as a Board member to lead Antioch University?

My experience within the nonprofit sector, I believe, has provided some benefit to the Antioch University BoG, especially in the areas of governance and institutional advancement. It has been an honor to help initiate the first BoG Institutional Advancement Committee and to lead my colleagues into a more robust engagement in fundraising. I’m proud of our progress—100% participation in Board giving, as well as a deeper involvement in the identification of individuals, foundations, and corporations willing to provide financial support to the University.

3 What has your experience been on the Board to date? Have there been any surprises you’d like to share?

I have learned so much from my experience on the BoG! The camaraderie among my fellow Board members has been remarkable—always enlightening and challenging—but also highly respectful. I feel fortunate to
have served with these talented individuals from all walks of life, all strongly committed to Antioch University’s values and mission. No matter what decision is in front of us, we approach it seriously and thoroughly.

The hard work, dedication, and creativity of the Antioch faculty and staff also have inspired me. I think the intense changes in higher education over the past five years—the rise of online learning, skyrocketing tuition and operating costs, and the intense shifts in market needs to name a few—have brought unprecedented challenges for us to overcome. We have not been the only ones that have faced these challenges.

If I were to interview you five years from now, what would you like to be able to say about...

a. Antioch University?

That Antioch University is recognized as a leader in experiential learning and in the development of professionals who actively advocate for social justice in a meaningful, passionate, and data-driven manner.

b. Your role as a BoG member?

That we successfully met the challenges before us and have been able to move the University along to its next, innovative, and unique stage of development. By the way, in five years, I still plan to be actively engaged with Antioch University, as an alum, donor, recruiter, and advocate!

What would you like our readers to know that they might not learn from your brief bio statement?

Over the last two years since I retired, I have significantly increased my community work. My lifelong love of horses and outdoor activities has led me to volunteer locally at a therapeutic riding program. I’m privileged to work with children under the age of three as they receive various types of therapy while riding horses. The results are astounding and these families truly inspire me!

I’ve also become more active in state advocacy efforts, including serving on the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women. Last year the Commission led the successful effort to pass a law that clarifies and expands the concept of equal pay in a practical and comprehensive manner. On a national effort, I attended the Women’s March in Washington, D.C., along with my husband and sister, and have become very engaged in follow-up advocacy efforts. There is much to do and I am fortunate to have the time to invest presently.

Finally I love to travel and have quite a few trips planned, including taking my 9-year old grand-nephew to London this spring. Ken and I did a raft trip through the Grand Canyon last fall—266 miles and 74 rapids! Quite exciting.

Maureen Curley joined the Board in 2008. She is the past president of Campus Compact, a national coalition of more than 1,100 college and university presidents and a network of 36 state affiliates dedicated to advancing the public purpose of higher education through civic engagement, community-based learning, community-campus partnerships, and engaged scholarship. She has more than 25 years of experience in the nonprofit sector, concentrating in aging, community service, and public policy.

Among other leadership positions, Maureen has served as Director of Public Policy for the Community Service Society of New York and as Executive Director of the Massachusetts Service Alliance, where she oversaw distribution of $12 million in grants to support AmeriCorps community service-learning and mentoring programs. She was also Chief Relationship Officer for Bridgestar, an initiative of The Bridgespan Group, where she developed services to connect executive-level managers with career and board opportunities in the nonprofit sector.
Maureen has taught courses on nonprofit and volunteer management at Columbia University, New York University, and University of Massachusetts Boston. She currently co-chairs Governor Deval Patrick’s Commonwealth Corps Commission. Curley holds a BA in political science from Emmanuel College and earned her MA in non-profit management from Antioch University New England in 1983.
What drew you to serve on the Antioch University Board of Governors? What makes you most proud?
I was drawn to serve on the Board by my interest in education as a catalyst for creating better communities, and as a pathway to better opportunities for personal growth for students. I am most proud of Antioch University’s efforts to combine quality higher education with a clear commitment to social justice.

What contributions do you feel you bring as a Board member to lead Antioch University?
I have extensive business experience working across cultures, geographies, and time zones in a wide variety of settings. I also have experience helping people find common ground, even in challenging and complex environments.

What has your experience been on the Board to date? Have there been any surprises you’d like to share?
It’s been a pleasure to work with such smart and committed people who give so freely of their time and their resources, particularly when they have so many other demands to meet. The biggest surprise (especially when I first joined three years ago) has been the sheer complexity of Antioch’s governance structure and the depth of the institution’s culture and history.

If I were to interview you five years from now, what would you like to be able to say about...
a. Antioch University?
That it is a thriving, growing institution that challenges its students, faculty, and staff to grow intellectually and personally; and that it gives each of them the tools to improve their communities and themselves.
b. Your role as a BoG member?
That I have contributed in some meaningful way to the success of the University.

What would you like our readers to know that they might not learn from your brief bio statement?
I am the youngest of eight kids. My parents taught all of us the importance of having a commitment to something larger than yourself, of finding the humor in virtually any circumstance, of having the ability to make do when you had little and sharing when you had more, and of respecting the opinions of others. They did this despite (and in some cases, because of) the inevitable chaos created by such a large family. I’m forever grateful to them for that.
Asia, South America, Europe, and the Middle East. Paul’s experience includes the negotiation and establishment of numerous international joint ventures, complex license arrangements and acquisitions, and consultation on a variety of commercial, labor, employment, and dispute resolution matters.

Prior to joining Starbucks, Paul was Executive Vice President and General Counsel for SP Investments, Inc., a private investment company, and was a partner in the law firm of Riddell Williams. Paul served on the Board of Governors at City University of Seattle, including a term as Vice Chair of the Board. He also served as a trustee of the King County Bar Foundation.

Paul holds a JD from Tulane University Law School and a BA from the University of Rhode Island. He lives in Seattle, WA, with his wife Lisa, and is visited sporadically by their college-age kids, Sam and Nina.