

Michigan State names interim provost

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The Hannah Administration Building on the campus of Michigan State University in East Lansing, Michigan. MLive.com

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Michigan State University on Monday named Teresa A. Sullivan as interim provost and executive vice president for academic affairs as it launches a search for a permanent replacement for June Youatt.

Youatt [resigned](#) earlier this month following a scathing report and historic fine from the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights. The report was critical of her for allowing persistent inappropriate behavior from ex-MSU College of Osteopathic Medicine Dean William Strampel, boss of convicted sexual abuser Larry Nassar, to fester.



[Damning federal report slams ousted MSU provost in handling of Strampel case](#)
[A federal investigation into Michigan State University's handling of the Larry Nassar controversy explains why June Youatt resigned Thursday as provost.](#)

Sullivan, an MSU alumna, recently retired as the first female president of the University of Virginia and served as provost and executive vice president for academic affairs at the University of Michigan prior to that.

“Terry has a wealth of experience as a provost and previous university president and will help us tremendously as we weather through our changes at Michigan State as well as our search for a new provost,” said MSU President Samuel Stanley in a press release.

“Her experience is hard to beat, as is her love and dedication to her alma mater. We are grateful to her for stepping into this role. Her external view point, combined with the understanding of faculty and governance structures, is invaluable.”

The provost is the chief academic officer at the university, leading on things that affect academic programs and research.

“I love MSU, and I’m committed to helping where I can,” Sullivan said.

Sullivan, a demographer by training, received a doctorate from the University of Chicago. She was an adviser to the MSU Board of Trustees as they selected a new president.

The university will soon select a search committee and begin a national search for a permanent replacement.