

## TODAY'S TOP STORIES

### Houghton College names new VP

By [NATE DOUGHERTY](#)

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Houghton College has appointed a senior vice president for advancement.

Robert Van Wicklin is the former chief of staff for former Rep. John Kuhl, R-Hammondsport, and retired Rep. Amory Houghton Jr.

Shirley Mullen, Houghton president, said she has asked Van Wicklin to develop strategic approaches in college advancement. Van Wicklin will lead the college's advancement team, which is responsible for donor and alumni relations, as well as marketing programs, the college said.

"We are blessed to be gaining the talents of such an accomplished executive and doubly blessed because Bob is a Houghton graduate who is committed to our mission and future," Mullen said.

Van Wicklin graduated from Houghton in 1992, earning a bachelor's degree in international studies and political science. He began his professional career as a staff assistant for Rep. Houghton and progressed steadily through a series of staff jobs, including press secretary. He was named chief of staff in 2003.

Van Wicklin is a commissioned intelligence officer in the U.S. Navy Reserves and earned a Master of Arts degree in national security and strategic studies from the U.S. Naval War College in Newport, R.I., and Washington, D.C. He has also studied at the Institute of World Politics through Boston University, focusing on intelligence and counterintelligence work.

In addition, Van Wicklin is a trustee of the National Defense Committee and The Faith and Politics Institute. He is a member of Monroe Community College's Homeland Security Training Steering Committee and the Naval Reserve Officers Association. He also served on the President's Advisory Board at Houghton College from 2004 to 2008.