Dr. Maura Donovan serves as vice president for corporate engagement. In this capacity, she is charged with formalizing, enhancing and streamlining the ways in which Marquette works with corporate partners, ultimately increasing the number of opportunities the university has to work with forward-looking organizations with shared values and strategic priorities that align with Marquette.



Prior to joining Marquette, Donovan was executive director of economic development at the University of Minnesota. She was recruited by the University of Minnesota’s flagship institution to start and build a foundation for its University Economic Development office, including planning and communicating its vision, mission, goals and strategy, and implementing a strategic planning process for the office. The work of the office contributed to increases in corporate sponsored research, strengthened relationships with statewide economic development organizations, created new opportunities for companies to engage with students and promoted a culture of cross campus collaboration to achieve holistic corporate engagement.

Prior to her most recent role at the University of Minnesota, Donovan served as the chief technology officer for the Decade of Discovery, a joint initiative of the University of Minnesota and the Mayo Clinic, where she was responsible for implementing public-private partnerships to advance diabetes and obesity research at the two institutions.

Previously, Donovan spent more than 20 years at Medtronic and has extensive leadership experience in the medical device and biotechnology industries. She has authored numerous medical publications, issued more than a dozen patents and received accolades including the Bakken Award, Medtronic’s highest technical award for significant contributions to the corporation, the biomedical industry, customers and patients. She was interim executive director of the Medical Device Innovation Consortium and has served as a member of the board of directors for Medical Alley and University Enterprise Laboratories and is currently a trustee emerita of Macalester College.

Donovan was a postdoctoral fellow in biochemistry at the University of Minnesota, holds a Ph.D. in pharmacology from the University of Washington, and a bachelor’s degree in chemistry and Russian from Macalester College.