

Message from the Outgoing President

Dear Members of the St. Joseph's Academy Board of Directors:

With both resolve and a heavy heart, I am informing you of my intent to retire by the end of the academic year 2021. By then I will have reached the point here at St. Joseph's Academy where my vision has seen the light of day and is either installed in the fabric of the school or has been launched with the promise of endurance.

I believe the time is approaching when a new vision will be a natural next step and with it a new president, fresh with ideas that continue to capture the essence of the Academy while opening wide the possibilities for the future.

It has been my good fortune to work with a team of consummate professionals who constitute the Senior Team and to whom I have turned for counsel and collaboration. On any given day what I have learned from them often has surpassed what I have brought to the table. Together we have charted a course to accomplish a number of goals for the School while making our process represent our values – values given to us by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet as well as our personal convictions. In the spirit of “Not I, But We” much has been achieved.

Together with the faculty we have grounded our commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion in public statements, new programs and the addition of staff and faculty from different backgrounds. Students of color have more than doubled their part of our enrollment.

We have completed building projects that have given the School a new Center for Campus Ministry, art department and integrated science department. College Advising is now its own department complete with new staff and a new state of the art facility. We accomplished the relocation of external entrances and exits on our campus creating a more expeditious traffic flow.

And it's not just enhancements of our physical space that we have managed to achieve during my tenure. We made numerous administrative adjustments to capture efficiencies and enhance the student experience. We added a whole new computer science department while adjusting content in other classes to reflect our work in diversity. We are on schedule to complete a 10 million

dollar capital campaign for building renewal and scholarships before 2022. And these are just some of the projects we have undertaken since I arrived nearly five years ago from Seattle.

I feel blessed beyond measure for having experienced the care, diligence and thoughtfulness of our staff and faculty, all trusting that we could together “move toward the more” as our Sisters have instructed us to do. I thank God for this opportunity and am gratified to have been able to shepherd St. Joe into a new era of excellence with all the good people who have steered us toward success. Among them are those I have mentioned and also the Board of Directors, parents and alumnae. I have made many friends here among you and I know going forward these friendships will endure.

One of the things that I have cherished while here at St. Joe has been the ability to freely acknowledge the presence of God in all that we do, to call upon God for guidance and to thank God for blessings bestowed. I take none of that for granted, having worked at secular institutions most of my career. The Catholic faith and charism of the Sisters of St. Joseph are vibrantly alive on this holy ground at 2307 South Lindbergh Boulevard and they have helped deepen my own faith. Relentlessly I have preached to our girls that our goal here at St. Joseph’s Academy is to help each student grow into her most authentic self as God continues to breathe more life into each of them. I have found a place here where I have been able to most authentically be myself among you and even perhaps find a little more of myself along the way. For the experience of leadership here at St. Joseph’s Academy, with all that it has entailed, I am so very grateful.

Onward,

Regina