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**Calumet College of St. Joseph names Dr. Daniel Lowery as its next President**

*Lowery to replace retiring Dr. Dennis Rittenmeyer in July 2011*

HAMMOND, Ind. (August 20, 2010) – Calumet College of St. Joseph is proud to announce Dr. Daniel Lowery will become the institution’s sixth president.

Lowery, currently the college’s vice president of academic affairs, will become president effective July 1, 2011, upon the retirement of longtime leader Dr. Dennis C. Rittenmeyer. The Board of Trustees elected Lowery during a called meeting today. Subsequent to the vote by the college trustees, the Corporate Board, chaired by The Very Rev. Larry Hemmelgarn, Provincial Director of the Cincinnati Province of the Society of the Precious Blood which sponsors the college, ratified the action.

Lowery was the unanimous choice of the Trustees’ executive committee, which acted as the planning committee with professional consultation by RPA, Inc., of Williamsport, Pa., one of the preeminent executive recruitment and consulting firms in higher education.

“Calumet College is getting a dynamic and prepared leader,” said Thomas Katsahnias, chairman of the Board of Trustees. “Dan has already demonstrated the talents that we feel are necessary as a member of the college family. He has deep knowledge of the college and community, a clear vision for the future and outstanding ability to communicate clearly and concisely.”

Lowery, 58, said he is “humbled and excited” by the opportunity to lead Calumet College of St. Joseph.

“The college is well positioned right now,” Lowery said. “We have outstanding undergraduate programs, growing graduate programs, an excellent student body, and faculty who are committed to serving our students’ unique needs. It doesn’t get any better than this in higher education.”

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Hemmelgarn said Lowery is a good fit for the college, and his dedication as a member of the college family will be helpful through the transition.

“We appreciate his focus on social justice issues. It is important to us as a religious order to reach out to the underserved of society,” Hemmelgarn said. “We take great pride in what Calumet College has been able to accomplish in the area of social justice, and we expect that will continue under Dan’s leadership because he is dedicated to the mission of the college.”

Rittenmeyer, 66, has served as Calumet College of St. Joseph’s president since July 1987. He announced June 1 that he would retire at the end of June 2011. He has led the private institution from financial insecurity to stability, nearly doubled enrollment, improved facilities, and expanded academic offerings as well as programs for students. Throughout his presidency, Rittenmeyer also has been an active leader in the Northwest Indiana community.

“I’m pleased with the sensitivity and the professionalism with which the Trustees approached the task of selecting a new president. Dan is a talented administrator and a very good academic,” Rittenmeyer said of Lowery. “He is known widely throughout the community, and he is committed to the values of Calumet College of St. Joseph.”

“One of my challenges will be to build on and extend what Dennis has built here,” Lowery said. “Calumet College is well respected in the community, which is a tremendous asset for any school and is a tribute to Dennis and the Board of Trustees. We expect a great deal of continuity. Yet no institution can stand still, so I will have to fight new battles as they present themselves. The challenges will be different.”

### **Lowery’s background**

Lowery has more than 20 years of experience in higher education. He joined Calumet College of St. Joseph as faculty in the Management department in 2005 and was promoted to vice president of Academic Affairs in 2006. In his current role, he also serves as academic dean, responsible for undergraduate and graduate programs.

Previously Lowery was a faculty member at Indiana University Northwest in Gary, where he also served as executive director for the Center for Sustainable Regional Vitality. In addition, he served as executive director of the Northwest Indiana Quality of Life Council from October 2000 to January 2007. His early career experience was with the Social Security Administration.

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Lowery earned his Ph.D. in public administration from the University of Illinois at Chicago. He holds a master's degree in business administration from Indiana University Northwest and a bachelor's degree in history and philosophy from Valparaiso University. He is studying for a master's degree in pastoral studies from Catholic Theological Union in Chicago.

Lowery, a Chesterton native, and his wife, Barbara, live in Highland. They have two grown children and two grandchildren.

### **Community involvement**

Katsahnias and Rittenmeyer noted that Lowery is well recognized for his involvement in the Northwest Indiana community, which will be an asset to the college.

Lowery is the host of Lakeshore Focus, a weekly program on Lakeshore Public Television discussing local news and issues.

Currently Lowery serves as president of the board of directors for the Lake Area United Way; vice chairman of the Catholic Charities board of advisors; immediate past chairman of the Campagna Academy board of directors; and advisory board member of Heartland Center.

His many awards include recognition for work pertaining to families and children in Northwest Indiana; for work pertaining to racism; for excellence in teaching; and for contributions to the Northwest Indiana community.

### **Looking to the future**

Rev. John Kalicky, C.P.P.S., pastor of St. John the Baptist Church in Whiting and a trustee of Calumet College of St. Joseph, said as a Catholic institution, Calumet College reaches out to the community it serves. The college is proud of its diverse student population and its ability to serve minority students in Northwest Indiana.

"I think that's of tremendous importance to this area and to the church, and Dan is deeply committed to continuing that service," Kalicky said. "Dan will make a great president, and I look forward to serving with him."

Lawrence Meyers, chairman-elect of the Board of Trustees, said the Trustees participating in the hiring process felt from the beginning that the right person for the job could come from within the college or the region.

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“It is important for leadership to be familiar with our area and the uniqueness of Calumet College and the people we serve,” he noted.

For his part, Lowery said he will be pleased to be part of following through on projects that have already begun at Calumet College.

“Calumet College has a very compelling mission to strengthen the academic rigor and the support structures that are in place. I’m in a good place to continue on that track and work with the faculty to develop what we view as an outstanding academic program tailored to the needs of our undergraduate students,” Lowery said.

**About Calumet College of St. Joseph**

Calumet College of St. Joseph is a degree-granting, Catholic institution of higher education sponsored by the Missionaries of the Precious Blood (C.P.P.S.). The college prepares graduates for careers and graduate school with academic and professional programs based on a strong foundation in the liberal arts and sciences. Serving a richly diverse student population, the college encourages differing views, fosters personal growth, and promotes the formation of spiritual, moral, and ethical values in support of social justice and personal responsibility. More information is available at [www.ccsj.edu](http://www.ccsj.edu).

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