

# Mission Moment



## **Dr. Catherine Lopez-Gonzalez**

*Dr Lopez has been married to her high school sweetheart for nearly 40 years, and together God has blessed them with two adult children and three wonderful grandchildren. She has been teaching here at CCSJ full-time for four years. She is director of the Fast-Track business program and teaches both undergraduate and graduate courses in business.*

I am a proud alumna of Calumet College of St. Joseph, graduating in 2001 from the Business Fast Track Program. As a working wife and mother of two young children at the time, CCSJ provided the perfect opportunity to complete a degree I had once left unfinished. Having grown up in Catholic schools, the college's faith-based environment felt like a natural fit and gave me the encouragement and support I needed to achieve my goals. The guidance I received during my time as a student is a big part of why I am committed to helping others persevere through their own challenges today.

After devoting 30 years to the banking industry, I made the decision to pursue a second career in education. I went on to earn a Ph.D. in Business with a specialization in Leadership, always with the hope of teaching in higher education. My career began in 2016 at St. Joseph's College in Rensselaer, and after the college's closure, I taught business courses at the high school level before returning to CCSJ. Over the past 14 years, 10 as an adjunct and 4 as a full-time faculty member, I have been honored to serve the students of the college that helped shape my own journey.

The mission and vision of CCSJ continue to guide my work as a professor. By emphasizing social justice, inclusivity, and the development of the whole person, the college inspires me to create a classroom environment that values both academic growth and personal character. I strive to instill resilience, compassion, and leadership in my students, carrying forward the spirit of service and perseverance that I experienced as a student myself.