

Mission Moment



Dr. Amy McCormack

As I come to the end of my tenure as the 7th president of Calumet College of St. Joseph, I reflect on what brought me to CCSJ. I was recently giving a presentation to higher education administrators about my pathway to the presidency and why I chose Calumet College of St. Joseph, which I hope is also why CCSJ chose me. In fact, I think we were meant for each other.

I was drawn to the private, faith-based mission of the institution and the tagline of “You Belong,” before belonging was such commonplace on most campuses. The small campus size gave me a chance to really deliver on the promise we make to students of a place where they can be known, be successful and belong. It has been a priority of mine to get to know the students, to treat each with human dignity and compassion, and to help them realize their own potential and the difference they can make. As importantly, I want them to embrace and develop their own values and talents and to “Dare to be You.”

I have loved my years at CCSJ and the ability to support students whether chatting in the Commons, cheering them on, holding back tears at Humanities Fest, or shaking their hand as they cross the stage at commencement. Their journey reminds me of my own college experience as a first-generation to college student trying to find my way, navigating the ups and downs, and celebrating the degree(s) that I earned. All of my degrees came with significant challenges and without the support of faculty members, administrators and my family, higher education would have been beyond my reach in many ways.

I was also drawn to delivering on our expression of “college family.” Higher education and being the leader of a small, Catholic college comes with many challenges, but the most important challenge is managing the responsibility for the health, wellness, and culture of the “college family.” I took it to heart -- and then some, but I think that is what I was called to do. I embraced the mission and the role with great enthusiasm and a sense of great responsibility. I also acknowledge that the role of college president comes with a great privilege and opportunity to positively impact others. A role that has purpose, privilege, and the potential to create a ripple impact long after people leave our campus and family environment.

I am proud of what we have accomplished together, as a college family, and grateful for the tremendous support of the college community, alumni, city and regional leaders, and donors. On occasion, I talk about my journey and how you could never chart my path from a farm girl to a

college president. I owe it to education, my work ethic, my leadership style, my faith, and those that have helped me along the way. It is with grit and gratitude that I have gotten this far, and I will miss being a part of CCSJ. I will also miss my occasional prayers and requests while sitting at the IC Grotto and my walks along the lakes and drive time when I try to problem solve and strategize.

Thank you for the nine years of memories during a transformative time. I know in my heart and mind I have left Calumet College of St. Joseph in good hands. I feel blessed to have been chosen by the Board of Trustees and C.P.P.S. to lead CCSJ.

Cheers to the next 75 years!

Amy