News Release

Contact: Rosanne Zudekoff
Phone: (203) 773-8502
Email: rzudekoff@albertus.edu

Albertus Magnus College President to Retire in June

(New Haven, CT-- ) Dr. Julia M. McNamara, president of Albertus Magnus College for 34 years, has announced her decision to retire on June 30, 2016, the end of the current academic year.

Joseph R. Crespo, chair of the College’s Board of Trustees, announced McNamara’s retirement today to the Albertus community. She will continue to be available to the campus and assist with the transition for the new president for a year following her retirement.

McNamara joined the College as a faculty member while pursuing and completing doctoral studies in French Literature at Yale University, and later became dean of students at Albertus.

Crespo noted that McNamara has been an “inspiration to the entire Albertus community and to the many organizations she has served over the years in the Greater New Haven community and beyond. Her commitment, leadership and dedication to this College and its mission of service have impacted the lives of thousands of students and their families.”

The Board of Trustees at its September 18 meeting voted to confer on her the honorary title of president emerita.

Under her leadership, Albertus has thrived and built upon its Dominican heritage and liberal arts foundation. During her presidency there have been many significant accomplishments: transition to coeducation; expansion of accelerated programs for working adults; expansion of academic program delivery to include online, blended, FLEX and traditional classroom experience; and the establishment of 10 master’s programs, including the Master of Arts in Art Therapy, the only program of its kind in Connecticut. Also during these years, the College completed the expansion and construction of several campus facilities, including the Tagliatela Academic Center, the Cosgrove
Marcus Messer Athletic Center, the Celentano turf field, and the transition of Rosary Hall—the College’s first building—from traditional library to state-of-the-art learning center. Renovations to Aquinas Hall provided additional space for the Devaney Lecture Hall and Bree Common.

Jeanne M. Dennison, a graduate of the Albertus class of 1978 and member of the Board of Trustees since 1999, has been elected by the Trustees to chair the board, effective November 13, 2015. As the board chair, Dennison will also lead the search committee for McNamara’s successor. The committee will reflect the campus community, including a representative from the Dominican Sisters of Peace, the College’s sponsoring organization, faculty, administrators, Board members, alumni and others. Following an inclusive process of discernment and dialogue, the committee will make its recommendations to the Board of Trustees in spring 2016.

For more information, please click here or go to albertus.edu/mcnamara.

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