



**COLLEGE OF
MOUNT SAINT VINCENT**

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

June 16, 2022

Dear Colleagues,

With the hope that you are finding time to enjoy the weather and outdoors and time spent with family and friends, I am sending this message to provide some updates from the Mount before we gather again as a full community on All College Day on August 31, 2022. Although the pace of summer is different than when school is fully “in session,” there is a lot of activity at the **#RightPlaceOnTheRiver** this summer! I hope you are as excited and proud of the good and meaningful work that is happening at the Mount!

Quick Note About Enrollment

We all know that new and returning student enrollment numbers are not final until we take our snapshot in the Fall semester, and still I am happy to report that things continue to look good in terms of our new student recruitment. Thank you to the many individuals who contribute to the recruitment and retention of CMSV students. Although enrollment efforts for Fall 2022 continue in full force, the number of new first-year students is trending ahead of the past several years. First-year, transfer, graduate, and partner enrollments all are on-track for meeting our goals. Recruitment efforts are also underway to enroll the first cohort of the Master of Science Physician Assistant Program now that we have received formal approval from both the programmatic accreditor, ARC-PA, and New York State of Education Department, with 55 students anticipated to begin this Fall.

You may recall from my previous All College Day presentations, the College of Mount Saint Vincent Board of Trustees approved a partnership between the Mount and [Orbis Education](#) to expand our enrollments in our Accelerated Nursing Program. Although the alliance with Orbis has had a slower start to full implementation than originally planned, work is well underway and includes efforts related to marketing, recruitment, and instructional design support of faculty for courses that will be offered in the Fall.

Adult Online Degree Offerings Coming to the Mount

Last Fall and Spring at our All College Day gatherings, I described my efforts to work with other colleges and universities to secure partnerships that could help us launch into the online adult degree/degree completion and graduate degree offerings as a means to serve well those who may not be served by others and additionally help offset the demographic decline in traditional-aged students. After many conversations with several colleges/universities and potential online program support partners, I am very pleased to share that the Board of Trustees approved us entering a partnership with Manhattanville College and [Academic Partnerships](#) to begin offering existing CMSV bachelor’s and master’s degrees in an online format to serve adult learners!

This exciting new cooperation will allow us to expand how we live our mission of meeting learners when and where they need us with academically excellent programs. Similar to our partnership with Orbis Education, the agreement with Academic Partnerships provides

significant investment in marketing and recruitment support, instructional design for online course development support for faculty who will serve as subject matter experts, and student success coaching for working adults who will be completing degrees through the College of Mount Saint Vincent. We have begun implementation planning meetings with the intent to launch CMSV online program offerings beginning in January of 2023.

Construction on Campus

As you likely know, the summer months are the time when campus infrastructure updates are in full force. Although we are not constructing new buildings on campus this summer (thankfully!), there are a few projects underway that continue our progress on the campus master plan. Starting with Founders Hall...Construction is underway on the first floor for the Helen Curry Lecture Hall, which will primarily be utilized for the Physician Assistant Program beginning with the program launch in the Fall semester. Given the location of that lecture hall under the Chapel of the Immaculate Conception, we are finally able to complete our commitment to the Sisters of Charity of New York (SCNY) to add air conditioning to the Chapel (the final piece of the Chapel renovation). Additional projects in Founders Hall include renovating former nursing simulation classrooms to office space for the physician assistant faculty and staff, some classroom facelifts, and some office moves of staff/administrators. As the nursing simulation classroom equipment is being moved from Founders Hall into Aquino Hall, we are excited that the Nursing and Physician Assistant Programs will have their spaces on the first and second floor of Aquino moved, opened, and fully ready for students beginning this Fall 2022 semester. Stay tuned for more information about the formal opening/dedication of Aquino Hall in the Fall.

An additional new and exciting construction project that is planned for this summer is made possible through a new partnership with the nonprofit organization [Manhattan Soccer Club](#) (MSC) that has been approved by the CMSV Board of Trustees. This partnership will fund the renovation of Marillac Field to have turf and lights, as well as a new press box, score board, and bench covers for the teams! CMSV will continue to have full access and usage of Marillac Field for athletic practice and competition as well as activities for the Mount community and MSC will be able to use Marillac Field as a “home field” for practice and competition. Not only are we excited to have the ability to more fully utilize the field for our students, we are also pleased to be welcoming youth who will be bussed from all five boroughs of NYC to campus, where they can learn more about the Mount! Construction will begin in June and we anticipate the turf to be installed in the first couple of weeks of August so that our Fall sports will be able to use the field by the start of the semester. The lighting of the field will occur a little later in September/October, but will still have a positive impact on the usage beginning in the Fall.

Although the last “construction on campus” update is technically neither construction nor on campus, I am going to use this space to share that the Board of Trustees recently approved the purchase of a home close to campus, in Yonkers, from the SCNY, to be designated as the College of Mount Saint Vincent President’s Residence, also known as the “Weber House.” The home was bequeathed to the SCNY years ago by a Mount alumna, Kay Weber ’39, who also left a generous planned gift to the College at the time of her passing. The Sisters who have been living in the home until recently have moved, leaving the house available for purchase. Before the house was put on the market, Sister Donna Dodge, President of the SCNY and Vice Chair of the CMSV Board of Trustees, graciously offered the College an opportunity to purchase the

home at a significantly reduced price. The Board (and I) believe that having a presidential home close to campus for entertaining purposes is of great value. My husband and I will be moving to the home in July and we look forward to welcoming current and prospective students and families, College employees, trustees, friends, and donors to the Weber House soon!

Strategic Planning Updates

As you will also recall from my updates at All College Day in August and January, the Board endorsed us moving forward with revising the current 2015-2025 strategic plan. Last January, I empaneled a Strategic Planning team that included representatives from students, alumni, faculty, staff/administration, senior administration, and trustees. The work of the Strategic Planning Team was facilitated by Mount alumnus, David Gilman '80, who works with organizations on strategy and planning. With thanks to the many of you who provided feedback on a draft of the plan via surveys that were sent out during the Spring semester, I brought forward to the Board a revised 2022-2025 Strategic Plan at their June retreat and general session this week. At the end of this letter, you will find the revised goals and objectives that were presented to and approved by the Board of Trustees. As you can imagine, these goals and objectives will require the entire community to be involved in one way or another, and so I look forward to your participation to help us accomplish this work over the course of the next three years. Stay tuned for more outreach and information from individuals who have been identified as leaders for various objectives.

Middle States Accreditation – Mark Your Calendars!

With continued thanks to Drs. David Gallo and Lynne Bongiovanni and the *many* colleagues who are part of the Middle States accreditation working groups, this summer's focus will be on compiling and articulating what we have learned through the self-study process. We have received confirmation that our site visit team will be on campus **April 2-5, 2023**. You will learn more in the Fall about the visit process and how you will be asked to be involved, and I would encourage you to mark your calendars now.

Organization Structure Updates

Many, but not all, may be aware that for the past couple of years, Kelli Smith, Vice President for Student Affairs, has been dividing her time serving both as CMSV VP for Student Affairs as well as VP for Student Affairs at Vaughn College. At the end of the Spring semester, Kelli left the Mount to be full-time VP for Student Affairs at Vaughn College. With Kelli's departure and thoughtful consideration, I decided to do some restructuring of our administrative organizational chart, whereby Student Affairs will now be reporting to Dr. Lynne Bongiovanni, Provost and Dean of the College.

With this change, we have promoted Fernando Mendoza, Associate Dean of Students, to Dean of Students, and will be hiring a Senior Director for Student Involvement and Inclusion to oversee portions of Student Affairs that were previously reporting to Fern as he assumes oversight of divisions previously reporting to Kelli Smith. This move is also made possible, in part, because of our recent hiring of the Dean for the School of Professional and Graduate Studies, Dr. Cristóbal Stewart, who is able to assume many of the responsibilities that Dr. Bongiovanni has been carrying in addition to her role as Provost. Additionally, to further support the work of Academic Affairs, beginning in July, Jesilyn Perez will assume the role of Senior Director of

Academic Support Services (including oversight of the Oxley Integrated Advising Center, TRIO, HEOP, Office of Accessibility Services, Career Services, and International Study), giving Dr. Gabrielle Occhiogrosso, Dean of the Undergraduate College, additional capacity to support the work of undergraduate students and faculty. Dr. Occhiogrosso will be moving offices to Founders Hall next to Dr. Bongiovanni's office and Dr. Stewart has taken the office across from the President's Parlor. Please offer your congratulations to Fern and Jesilyn and welcome Cristóbal to the Mount!

Pandemic Planning

As we gear up for Orientation sessions this summer to welcome new CMSV students and their families to campus, I want to, again, thank the many of you who are involved in the admissions and retention process! It truly takes an entire community to recruit and retain college students, and you have my appreciation for the role you play. In an attempt to balance the continued pandemic with the emerging from a pandemic, the Senior Administration team and I have decided that we will continue to require vaccination for COVID-19 for all students and employees (allowing appropriately approved medical and religious exemptions) and *strongly recommend* those who are eligible for boosters to be boosted. Of course, we will continue to monitor city, state, and federal recommendations/requirements and encourage all to engage in behaviors that keep them healthy and safe. Masks for those who are vaccinated continue to be optional (required for those who are not vaccinated).

Vincent's Table Breakfast Club

As you are aware, the College continues our food pantry and food distribution outreach partnership with the SCNY. This shared commitment to living our mission and values has served many who are facing food insecurity and hunger. You may (or may not) also be aware of the Breakfast Club that is now offered on particular days of the week at Vincent's Table in Rosary Hall, across from the Convent. Distribution emails are being sent via DolphiNet to remind the campus community of the days breakfast is available, and I would encourage you to follow [@cmsvministry on Instagram](#) for notices as well.

Looking for CMSV Swag Online?

Are you looking to send some CMSV swag to someone you love? Or perhaps you need a new Mount hat to keep the sun out of your eyes this summer, but want to save on gas driving to campus store. Well, the [campus store is online](#) and here to help! Show your 'Phin Pride by shopping online in addition to shopping on campus. My sincere thanks go to Jean Walker who took lead and spent countless hours working to bring online shopping to the Mount, and Leah Munch who helped launch the final site. I encourage you to share the news with others that they now too can shop online for CMSV gear!

Happy Dodransbicentennial!

This coming academic year, we will be celebrating the College of Mount Saint Vincent's 175th anniversary of our founding! You may have seen a call for sharing your "[Mount Moments](#)," but perhaps you didn't have time to respond when you received the message. Now's your chance! We look forward to celebrating this significant milestone in many ways, and I hope that you will take a moment to share memories and photos. Stay tuned for more information about the celebrations that will occur in the 2022-2023 academic year!

With Appreciation

As of June 1, 2022, I have been with the College for a year and a half, and I want to take a quick moment to thank you, individually and collectively, for the many and different ways you have made the past year and a half so very special. The work we do is not easy, but it is so very important and I feel abundantly blessed to walk in that work together with this community!

Thank you for reading to the end of this message, and for your part in making the College of Mount Saint Vincent truly the **#RightPlaceOnTheRiver!**

Be well, take care, and enjoy your summer!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susan R. Burns". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Susan R. Burns, Ph.D.
President

College of Mount Saint Vincent

2022-2025 Revised Strategic Plan Goals and Objectives

Approved by the CMSV Board of Trustees at the June 14, 2022 Retreat

Goal 1: Further enhance the College of Mount Saint Vincent's excellent liberal arts, professional academic programs, and co-curricular programs while maintaining data-driven assessment processes to ensure success and sustainable growth.

Objectives for Goal 1

1. Explore and initiate new academic programs *and/or* revision of existing academic programs informed by market research and cost/revenue analysis performed by the Academic Innovation Team.
2. Market and expand joint academic pathway programs with other colleges (e.g., physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech and language pathology, and engineering).
3. Implement and promote the Center for Leadership at CMSV to better prepare students across disciplines to launch their careers through networking, internships, and professional development.
4. Conduct a feasibility study and plan for establishing a Campus Health Center.
5. More fully integrate the Fishlinger Center for Public Policy research into the College and continue to emphasize, support, and market faculty and student collaboration on scholarship and service activities through these programs.
6. Assess feasibility of expanding athletic programs informed by student interest and cost-benefit analysis.
7. Implement and market affordable, meaningful study abroad opportunities for students.

Goal 2: Maintain the College of Mount Saint Vincent's culture of diversity, equity, and authentic inclusivity by continuing our historical emphasis on the Vincentian tradition of service, the Setonian tradition of spirituality, and the Catholic intellectual tradition.

Objectives for Goal 2

1. Expand the role of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee as a resource for students, faculty, and staff, about best practices to achieve an authentically diverse and inclusive campus community.
2. Promote diversity in hiring at all levels and on the Board of Trustees, including programs designed to support students considering careers in higher education.
3. Ensure that the College's history as a safe place for people from all backgrounds and as a center for inclusivity and diversity is appropriately featured in all marketing materials.

Goal 3: Grow the College of Mount Saint Vincent's traditional undergraduate, online adult, and graduate (online and in person) enrollment by leveraging the strength of existing programs and through additional diverse, high impact program offerings.

Objectives for Goal 3

1. Continue to evolve the traditional undergraduate enrollment management model that maintains our commitments to mission-centered inclusivity while expanding enrollment beyond historical markets and meeting targeted revenue goals.

2. Identify and develop partnerships with other educational institutions to create pathway programs serving high school, first-time freshmen, and transfer students (e.g., dual enrollment programs with local and regional high schools and joint admission with community colleges).
3. Building on our culture of a vibrant, engaged community, enhance the overall student experience beyond the classroom for on-campus students with new/expanded programs in student activities (e.g., arts and music, research, internship and externship experiences, and service learning).
4. Leveraging strengths of current programs, explore and implement new innovative partnerships and collaborations to expand academic programs for all types of students (undergraduate, online adult, graduate).

Goal 4: Expand awareness of the College of Mount Saint Vincent to internal and external audiences promoting academic programs as well as the transformative outcomes of our diverse student and alumni populations.

Objectives for Goal 4

1. Develop a comprehensive marketing campaign to expand awareness of the College among segmented and targeted audiences.
2. Raise the profile and awareness of exceptional programs and authentic opportunities serving diverse learners, pursue the development and naming of Schools of Health Professions, Education, Business, and Adult and Professional Studies.
3. Explore and develop new engagement and recognition opportunities for alumni and community partnerships that benefits current students (e.g., student referral programs, career development experiences, service opportunities).

Goal 5: Sustain and expand the College of Mount Saint Vincent's financial resources for efficient and effective use for the maximum benefit of all the students it serves.

Objectives for Goal 5

1. Increase the number (and retention) of alumni donors and major gifts by expanding giving from various alumni constituent groups.
2. Expand the effective use of technology throughout the College community including the move to a digital, paperless campus
3. Plan for the impact of fluctuating enrollments on all facilities.
4. Meet and exceed the \$50 million-dollar endowment goal through bequests, gifts, capital gains, and reallocation of investment and capital resources.