

# ROSEMONT COLLEGE

*the POWER of small*

June 21, 2019

Dear Members of the Rosemont College Community,

I write today on behalf of the members of the Rosemont College Board of Trustees to officially share the news that President Sharon Hirsh will retire from Rosemont College on May 31, 2020.

Sharon Latchaw Hirsh, PhD, an alumna of the class of 1970, has been President of Rosemont College since 2006, after serving as Acting President and Interim President respectively during the illness and following the death of President Ann Amore.

Through President Hirsh's leadership, enrollment has increased, the Undergraduate College has become co-educational, online degree programs have been developed, campus facilities have been enhanced and renovated, Undergraduate College tuition has been decreased, salaries have grown, and academic programs have been strengthened.

Rosemont has also had significant fundraising success under President Hirsh's tenure, which has helped to provide academic enhancements, scholarship funds, and improvements and renovations to the campus. Since President Hirsh took office in 2006, nearly \$59 million has been raised by the College, which includes the successful completion of the College's \$40 million comprehensive fundraising campaign in 2017. The capital projects that have transformed the Rosemont campus include the construction of the Ravens Athletic Complex, development of the Library Information Commons, purchase and renovation of Gracemere Honors House, the phase one renovation of the dining area of Cardinal Hall, the renovation of the Rotwitt Theater, and the current construction of the College's 73,000 square foot Community Center.

In addition, under Dr. Hirsh's presidency, the College established the Institute for Ethical Leadership and Social Responsibility, added seven new athletic teams, and developed collaborative partnerships with Drexel University, Salus University, Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine, Harrisburg University of Science and Technology, University of the Sciences, and Eastern University, while maintaining our strong partnerships with the seven other Southeastern Pennsylvania Consortium for Higher Education (SEPCHE) colleges and universities, as well as our neighbor, Villanova University.

President Hirsh has been dedicated to upholding the spirit and educational values of Cornelia Connelly in her every action as President of Rosemont College, and, in perhaps her greatest accomplishment, she has ensured that Rosemont's mission has been incorporated into all facets of life at the College.

In recognition of her many achievements and in gratitude for what will be over 14 years of service as President of Rosemont College, the Board of Trustees has voted to name the new Community Center in honor of President Hirsh. The Center will be known as the "Sharon Latchaw Hirsh Community Center" when it is dedicated in the fall of 2019.

At its meeting on June 7th, the Board of Trustees began the process of searching for the College's 14th President. While the Board will select the next President, it will do so through an inclusive search process that will solicit input from faculty, students, staff, alumni, donors, and friends. Throughout this process, the College community will collaborate closely in order to attract top candidates who have the ability to carry out Rosemont's mission in an increasingly challenging and competitive environment. Before the start of the next academic year, I will share with the entire community the timeline for the search and outline the opportunities that the community will have to interact with and give feedback to the search committee (which will have trustee, faculty, staff, alumni, and student representation). It is expected that a new President will be selected by the Board of Trustees in early 2020.

A personal letter from President Hirsh to the College community is enclosed.

I know you join me in thanking President Hirsh for her loyalty to Rosemont College, her commitment to its mission, and her dedication to our students, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends, and in wishing her well in retirement.

Sincerely yours,



Maria Feeley, Esq. '93  
Chair, Board of Trustees