

ROSEMONT COLLEGE

the POWER of small

June 21, 2019

Dear Members of the Rosemont College Community,

As you have learned, I will be retiring from my position as President of Rosemont College as of May 31, 2020.

I write today to share with you, Rosemont's students, faculty, staff, alumni, friends, and supporters, my thoughts on retirement, my time at Rosemont, and my hopes for Rosemont's future.

As many of you will recall, in 2017, I signed a three-year contract which ends in the 2019-2020 academic year. While it is hard to believe that time period has nearly ended, I will share with you that leaving will be bittersweet for me. I have been planning for my retirement for a long time, and I'm looking forward to immersing myself in the world of art history again, enjoying a less hectic schedule, and, of course, being able to spend more time with my son, daughter-in-law, and my new grandson, even as I know I will really miss being at Rosemont. And I am excited about immediately returning to campus as a "private citizen" for my 50th Reunion with the great class of 1970 in June of 2020!

My time as President of my alma mater has been an unexpected but absolutely wonderful capstone to my academic career, and I am proud of all that, together, we have accomplished for Rosemont. From those early days following the untimely death of President Ann Amore, through the decision-making process to become co-educational, through growth in our partnerships, through campus construction, through launching online degree programs and lowering our tuition, and certainly through the constant everyday challenges facing higher education today, I've been so blessed to have been surrounded by exceptional faculty, talented staff members, loyal administrators, dedicated trustees, supportive alumni and donors, and our amazing students. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as President of a true community that welcomes diversity and embraces respect. We have a very special culture of joy at Rosemont; I am proud of the fact that we work every day to ensure, as well as appreciate, that culture.

I am very grateful for the past 13 plus years at Rosemont College. I look forward to this final year with each of you; it will be a sprint, not an "easing up," I assure you! I know that this will be a poignant year for me in many ways, one of many "lasts," yet there is still work to be done. And, you have my promise that in this final year I will continue to do all that I can for the College to ensure its continued success. I have great optimism in the future of Rosemont and I look forward to "coming home" to Rosemont to celebrate the Centennial in the 2021-2022 year!

I have every confidence that in selecting the 14th President of the College, the Board of Trustees, through the search committee on which faculty, staff, alumni, and students will serve, will be mindful of all that makes Rosemont College unique, that our mission and values will be upheld, and that *the POWER of small* will be championed. The next President of Rosemont College will inherit a community I am proud to have served as President, but one about which I am even prouder to have been a part.

With my great gratitude and my continued prayers for and support of Rosemont's promising future,



Sharon Latchaw Hirsh, PhD '70
President