

Spes Unica Award

Presented at Honors Convocation

May 6, 2012

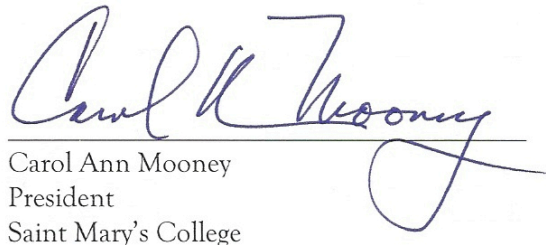
There is one person among us whose long tenure at Saint Mary's College has resulted in many significant contributions to the College. He has already been recognized for his excellent teaching with the Maria Pieta Award, but his contributions to the College extend well beyond those made in his classroom, or even within his home department, which he chaired for many years. Today we honor this person for the pivotal role he played (and is still playing) in the development, adoption, and implementation of the Sophia Program in Liberal Learning.

He has been the constant presence shepherding the process through all of its phases: he chaired the Ad Hoc Committee on General Education; he participated in or served as liaison to all three design teams, and he is an *ex-officio* member of the Sophia Program Curriculum Committee. In doing so, he brought a commitment to transparency and consensus building to the process. Over the last five years, he has given the time that was needed to ensure success, while demonstrating a patient, but determined commitment. He was humble enough to start over after more than a year spent developing alternative conceptual models not based on learning outcomes; he has been steady enough to endure criticism at countless listening sessions; he has been pragmatic enough to not entirely ignore the political aspects of the endeavor; and he has been wise enough to not let the perfect be the enemy of the good.

There were many people who brought us to the point where we find ourselves today: ready to implement the first phase of the Sophia Program in Liberal Learning this fall with the incoming class of 2016. But, there was one person who was always "in the trenches" every step of the way and who was the guarantor of the outcome.

The development of the Sophia Program in Liberal Learning, and its adoption by the Board of Trustees, represent a monumental achievement for Saint Mary's College. On the eve of its implementation, it is most fitting to recognize and honor the person who was the heart of the team that made it all possible. It is with great pleasure that I present the Spes Unica Award to Professor Joseph Incandela.




Carol Ann Mooney
President
Saint Mary's College