



ASSOCIATION OF CATHOLIC COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

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NEWS RELEASE

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Association President Receives Highest Honor from Alma Mater

Washington, DC—On Saturday, January 21, the Community at Chaminade-Madonna College Preparatory School awarded its 2017 Founders' Award to Michael Galligan-Stierle, Ph.D., president of the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities (ACCU).

Galligan-Stierle, a 1968 graduate of Chaminade-Madonna, was honored for dedicating his life to the service of others as a teacher, campus minister, and in his current position as president of ACCU. The Founders' Award is given to members of the school's community who exemplify the unique quality of Service to the Church and its Ministry of Education at various levels. The school is administered by members of the Society of Mary (the Marianists), a religious congregation of brothers and priests founded in 1817. It is one of 17 Marianist high schools in the U.S. Province of the Society of Mary, along with three universities (Chaminade University of Honolulu, St. Mary's University in San Antonio, and the University of Dayton in Ohio).

Galligan-Stierle admits that much of his knowledge and leadership experience has been built upon early lessons acquired during his Marianist-inspired education. The vision of congregation founder William Joseph Chaminade continues to inspire the ACCU leader to contribute in compelling ways to the service of others, striving individually and collectively — in the words of the school motto — “toward a better world.”

“What Chaminade also did,” he told the audience of friends and family, “is teach me that I had something significant to offer this world. The ongoing affirmation ... by my education groomed me for a lifetime of learning. Education has shown me where I do and do not have talents, and where I can and cannot make a significant contribution.”

He told the story of gathering with more than 70 student leaders from Marianist high schools along the East Coast while a high school senior, for a five-day retreat and training in upstate NY. “My life would never be the same,” he recalled. “That experience of an authentic Christian community, created by the Marianist brothers/priests/sisters and lay faculty, was so positive, so life-giving, it convinced me that immersion within a spiritual Catholic community was the way I wanted to live the rest of my life.”

Galligan-Stierle, who had been inducted into the school's Hall of Fame in 1994, was honored along with fellow alumnus Kenneth Stover (class of 1964). Joined by his wife Pamela, his parents, and other family, Galligan-Stierle concluded his remarks by saying, “In receiving this Founders' Award, I am deeply honored and grateful to the Chaminade-Madonna community. It is a moment for me to celebrate that my head, heart, and hands have been guided by the Spirit, my family, friends, co-workers, and colleagues.”

The **ASSOCIATION OF CATHOLIC COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES**, founded in 1899, serves as the collective voice of U.S. Catholic higher education. Through programs and services, the Association strengthens and promotes the Catholic identity and mission of its member institutions so that all associated with Catholic higher education can contribute to the greater good of the world and the Church.