



President's Message

Correspondence from the ACCU President

Colleagues:

I just finished reading the new Georgetown Center on Education and the Workforce series on Postsecondary Educational Value. Center director Jeff Strohl mentioned the project when he spoke at the 2026 ACCU Annual Meeting. Here is the series' [Executive Summary](#). The framework for measurement is worth a quick look.

Also worth your attention, hopefully, is a new ACCU publication, Fast Facts, providing periodic data points of interest about Catholic higher education, the people, programs, financials, etc. — to help you place your institution or experience in context. I am providing a link to the first [Fast Facts on ACCU presidential demographics](#). Future fact sheets will be posted on the ACCU website.

Speaking of the new site, we are still working out a few kinks, but visual first impressions have been very positive. My thanks to those institutions that provided pictures for our “front door.” Please feel free to continue to send us new faces and facilities. We will be rotating campus shots monthly, and adding others throughout the website, so the more the merrier selection-wise.

This is peak inauguration season, which gives me the chance to actually visit a number of different campuses, meet board members, and extend greetings from ACCU. It is exciting to see a new cohort of presidents step into leadership, 50% of whom are women! My thanks to Marcheta Evans, President of St. Catherine University and John McKeegan, President of Mount Aloysius College for co-headlining the first [Institute for New Presidents](#) Zoom

session on “Speaking about Mission in Contentious Times.” Next up on October 30th is University of San Francisco President Salvador Aceves speaking on Governing for Mission.

The virtual podium for the [October 29th Aspiring to the Presidency session](#) will be shared by Gonzaga President Katia Passerini and Albertus Magnus President Marc Camille. This is an important pipeline program for ACCU, but it is a challenge recruitment-wise — because we do not always know embedded talent. It is up to presidents to identify and encourage participation. I ask for your help.

In conclusion, let me remind you that [Annual Meeting registration is open](#). You need to register separately for the [January 29th reception at the Nunciature](#).

As always, your leadership is a gift to Catholic higher education. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Donna M. Carroll
President

ACCU Presidential Opinions

Commentary: Rethinking degree plans

Abel A. Chávez, President of Our Lady of the Lake University, reflects on the need for higher education to rethink traditional degree models and create more flexible pathways that better serve students.

“Where We Should Go Together”

Xavier A. Cole, President of Loyola University New Orleans, discusses student formation, Jesuit Catholic education, and the importance of relationships and collaboration in higher education.

How La Salle University Became the “Comeback College”

Daniel J. Allen, President of La Salle University, joins The Higher Ed Geek podcast to discuss La Salle’s turnaround and the importance of staying focused on mission, student success, and the university’s core strengths.

This Fall, Universities Must Lead the Conversation on Artificial Intelligence

Rev. James J. Maher, C.M., President of Niagara University, reflects on the responsibility of Catholic higher education to ensure that artificial intelligence serves human dignity, the common good, and human flourishing.

ACCU Programming

Community Engaged Scholar-Practitioner Network (CESPN)

2026 Annual Gathering

October 8–9, 2026

Loyola University New Orleans | New Orleans, Louisiana

The CESPN 2026 Annual Gathering brings together community-engaged scholars, practitioners, and researchers from ACCU member institutions for professional development, collaboration, and discussion on service-learning and community engagement.

Institute for New Presidents

Friday, October 30, 12:00–1:00 p.m. ET

Governing for Mission (2nd of 6 virtual sessions)

Governing for Mission is a preeminent fiduciary board duty in Catholic higher education. This session will explore approaches to governance, the roles of the board and president, and trends in Catholic institutional sponsorship, before inviting dialogue with participants. [Click here to register.](#)

Presidents' Reception at the Apostolic Nunciature

Join us for a special reception at the Apostolic Nunciature in Washington, D.C., on **January 29** from 6–8 p.m., held in conjunction with the ACCU Annual Meeting. The evening will feature remarks by His Excellency Most Reverend Gabriele Caccia, Apostolic Nuncio to the United States, followed by cocktails and conversation. Each ACCU member president may bring one guest. There is no additional cost to attend, and complimentary transportation will be provided for registered attendees. Register [here](#).

Register Now: 2027 Annual Meeting

January 30–February 1, 2027

Grand Hyatt Washington | Washington, D.C.

Join ACCU presidents and senior leaders in Washington, D.C., for the [2027 ACCU Annual Meeting](#), featuring opportunities for dialogue, collaboration, and fellowship within Catholic higher education. [Click here to register.](#)

2027 ACCU Presidential Leadership Report

In partnership with CampusWorks + Dynamic Campus, ACCU invites you to participate in a confidential, one-on-one 20-minute conversation on leadership, enrollment, sustainability, workforce, technology, student success, mission, and the future of Catholic higher education. These confidential insights will be synthesized into the 2027 ACCU Presidential Leadership Report, highlighting key themes and priorities. Neither presidents nor institutions will be identified without prior consent, and the final report will be shared with all ACCU member institutions. Broad participation is essential to ensuring the findings reflect the realities and perspectives of Catholic higher education. Participating is easy. Click [here](#) to register.

College of Saint Mary Featured as an Opportunity College and University

College of Saint Mary is featured in the Carnegie Foundation and American Council on Education's Opportunity Colleges & Universities Profile Series, highlighting the institution's commitment to student access, strong outcomes, and economic mobility.

Preaching with the Sciences

Catholic Theological Union offers Preaching with the Sciences, a collection of resources exploring the connection between faith, preaching, and science. [Learn more.](#)

ACE Experience 2027 (ACEx2027)

March 2–7, 2027

Marriott Marquis Washington, DC | Washington, D.C.

The ACE Experience 2027 brings together higher education leaders from across the country for a week of dialogue, learning, and collaboration focused on the future of higher education.

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