

Mercy Welcomes New Leadership on Board of Trustees

In January 2020, the Mercy College Board of Trustees elected **Joseph Gantz** the new chairman. Gantz, who has served as a trustee since 2001, and most recently as chair of the development committee, is a founding partner, executive advisor and member of the investment committee at private equity firm Pine Brook Partners. He has extensive experience in corporate senior management and is an experienced and successful investor. Gantz is involved with many non-profit organizations including being on the executive committee of the board of Madison Square Boys & Girls Club, which provides a safe, stable, supportive environment for youth in some of New York City's most under-served neighborhoods. Gantz holds an M.B.A. from Columbia Business School and a B.A. from the University of Pennsylvania.

Mercy College is deeply grateful to former Chairman **Bruce J. Haber** who led the board from 2015 – 2020 and continues to serve as a trustee. During Haber's time as chairman, Mercy experienced tremendous growth including the purchase of Our Lady of Victory Academy, building Hudson Hall at the Dobbs Ferry Campus, the expansion of MercyManhattan and finalizing the



Joseph Gantz

Photo by John Raiola

agreement with the College of New Rochelle.

Over the last year, Mercy College has welcomed five new members to its Board of Trustees who demonstrate commitment to furthering the mission of the College and providing motivated students the opportunity to transform their lives through higher education.

New members Richard Aks, Valerie Mason Cunningham, James B. Jenkins, Robert H. Niehaus, Carlos S. Passi and Christopher J. Sobacki, with their backgrounds in finance, corporate governance and business management, guide the College's

financial and operational growth and inspire broader investment in its students, faculty and staff.

Mercy College President Tim Hall is appreciative of the board members' devotion during the pandemic. "The College is fortunate to have such a dedicated and vested group of trustees. During these uncertain times, we've come together to ensure the best outcomes for students and come out stronger. We are grateful to all our trustees, especially our new members, for investing their time and expertise to ensuring that Mercy College will thrive in the years to come and ultimately continue to educate deserving students."

NEW MEMBERS INCLUDE:

Richard Aks is a retired investment banker and higher education administrator who served as Mercy College's Interim Chief Financial Officer from September 2019 to February 2020. Previously, he spent three and a half years at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, NJ, where he was the Vice President for Finance and Associate Treasurer. Aks became a higher education executive after a 30-year career as a public finance investment banker and financial advisor at J.P. Morgan and Goldman Sachs. Aks is a graduate of Brown University and Harvard Business School. He serves on the Board's Audit, Endowment, and Finance and Control Committees.

Valerie Mason Cunningham has more than 30 years of progressive leadership and management experiences in the high-tech industry; serving both the commercial and private sectors globally. Cunningham recently retired from a successful 38-year career at Xerox Corporation with an impressive track record of fueling revenue and profit growth, transformational organization change and boosting market share growth. Cunningham graduated from the State University of New York at Old Westbury earning a B.S. in marketing and business management with a concentration in computer science. Cunningham earned an honorary doctorate of commercial science from Mercy

College. Cunningham has served as a member of the University of Connecticut-Stamford Business School's Advisory Board and on CompTIA's Vendor Advisory Council. She currently serves as the board chair of the Board of Director's and Executive Committee for Volunteer New York! and is a member of the Friends of Urban Resource Institute. Cunningham serves on the Board's Development Committee.

James B. Jenkins has more than 30 years of experience in real asset management, including commodity trade, logistics, infrastructure, risk management, compliance and corporate governance. Currently, he is president of Canachagala Corporation, which offers services

including commodity and real asset advisory, equity and capital markets investments and angel investments. Jenkins earned a B.A. in English from Amherst College. He has served as a member of the New York Board of Trade's Cocoa and Control Committees and as chairman of the Board of Directors of the Cocoa Merchants' Association of America. In addition, he has taught at three different universities. Jenkins chairs the City of Rye Finance Committee, is a member of the President's Advisory Council of the National Wildlife Federation and is a past board member of the Red Cross Metro NY North Chapter. Jenkins serves on the Board's Academic and Student Affairs, Audit and Development Committees.

Robert H. Niehaus has more than 30 years of private equity investment experience and currently serves as chairman and founder of Greenhill Capital Partners, LLC (GCP). Niehaus joined Greenhill & Co. in 2000 as a managing director and founded GCP in 2009. Prior to joining Greenhill, he spent 17 years at Morgan Stanley & Co.,

where he was a managing director in the merchant banking department from 1990 to 1999. Niehaus holds an M.B.A. from Harvard Business School and a B.A. in international affairs from Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School. Niehaus and his wife, Kate, are founding supporters of and lead donors to the Mercy Scholars Program. Niehaus serves as chair of the Board Audit Committee, and on the Executive, Finance and Control, and Academic and Student Affairs Committees.

Carlos S. Passi retired as the vice president of finance at IBM Global Markets, where he was responsible for IBM's financial operations, strategies, management, and controls across the North America, Europe, Japan, Latin America, Asia Pacific, Greater China Group and Middle East/Africa. He holds an M.B.A. and an M.S. in mechanical engineering from the University of Colorado as well as a degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Chile. Currently, he serves on the Board of Advisors of the University of Connecticut's M.S. in Business Analytics and

Project Management program, as chairman of the IBM Retiree Contribution Campaign and as a retiree advisor to IBM's Corporate Social Responsibility function. He also volunteers with the Putnam Arts Council. Passi serves on the Board's Development Committee.

Christopher J. Sobecki is managing director at the Invus Group, an equity investment company that has over \$8 billion assets under management and offices in New York, Paris and Hong Kong. He currently serves on the Board of numerous companies, both private and public, where Invus is a major investor. Sobecki holds an M.B.A. from Harvard Business School and a B.S. in Industrial Engineering from Purdue University. Sobecki's wife, Patrice, is a nursing instructor and an alumna of Mercy having earned her M.S. in nursing education and B.S.N. Sobecki also has previously served as a board member of Tufts University Institute for Global Leadership. Sobecki serves on the Board's Endowment Management Committee.

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