

## **CNR Legacy Council Update**

The Legacy Council met last on Tuesday, January 24<sup>th</sup>.

Patricia Keegan Abels SAS '73 began the meeting with a prayer to St. Angela Merici in honor of the saint's feast day on January 27<sup>th</sup>.

The group welcomed our guest, Dr. Eva Fernandez, Provost, and Vice President for Academic Affairs, who joined Mercy in July 2022, after spending 22 years at the City University of New York (CUNY) where she served in various capacities. After elaborating a bit more on her background and interests, Dr. Fernandez expressed her desire to work with CNR alumni to create mentoring and career opportunities for students.

Chief Advancement Officer Bernadette Wade then followed with a report from Institutional Advancement. Dr. Susan Parish will become the 13th President of Mercy College, assuming the role beginning July 1st. Contracts are being signed for Mercy to remain at the current Bronx campus location. CertiFi at Mercy, the noncredit division affording certificates and training offerings to individuals who would like to expand their skillsets and marketability, is proving to be very successful. By way of the NY State Attorney General, Mercy has officially been awarded \$5 million of endowed scholarships from CNR donors, which had been held by the state since CNR closed. There are a total of 14 scholarships, of which three or four have current donors who are still alive. Separate and apart from this, to date the CNR Legacy Scholarship fund has resulted in 29 scholarships for Mercy College students.

Director of Development – CNR, Tara Alfano, reported that, for the first time, CNR will join Mercy College at the Alumni of Distinction awards event on February 10th. Pearl Sullivan SNR '03, GS '15; Chris Morrison SAS '07; Dr. Shango Blake SNR '93, GS '96, GS '11; and Sandy Cayo SN '08 will receive awards in recognition of their contributions to their respective communities. On February 16th, Dr. Bessie Blake, former Dean for School of New Resources, will be the lead speaker for the Black History Month Celebration Reception. Upcoming events will include a speaking engagement on “Breaking Barriers” with former Pepsi CEO Indra Nooyi and an event at which Mercy will be gifted a sculpture by internationally acclaimed artist Martin Rubio in honor of Mercy's distinction as a Hispanic Serving Institution. The Trustees' Dinner will take place on May 4<sup>th</sup>; Marcelle Willock SAS '58 will receive the award posthumously.

Updates were given by the Chairs of the Communications/Newsletter, Service and Community Outreach, Networking and Career Development, Book Club Committees, and Programs committees.

Mav Market continues to benefit from the generosity of its supporters but the need for donations continues. In November and December alone, there were 375 Mav Market shoppers

that benefited 1,260 people. An appeal to CNR alumni went out in January and another one will be sent out during April.

General Mav Market Donation: <https://alumni.mercy.edu/mercymavmarket>

Amazon Wishlist: [https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/305E3L2KQQD5V?ref\\_=wl\\_share](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/305E3L2KQQD5V?ref_=wl_share)

Reunion will be held on Friday, June 9th and Saturday, June 10th, 2023. Events include a BBQ at Moller House on Friday evening, a celebration lunch on Saturday, and a dinner on Saturday evening. In addition, the second installment of the Sister Dorothy Ann Kelly Lifelong Enrichment Series will be held on Saturday morning. Alumni from both CNR and Mercy College, as well as the CNR and Mercy communities-at-large, are invited to attend the session.

The next Legacy Council meetings will be held on March 21<sup>st</sup> and May 9<sup>th</sup>.