

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Mount Alumni,

Big changes are on the horizon.

We are making great strides with Transformation 2025. As a strategic vision for leading Mount St. Joseph University into a bold new future, it was created with the goal of invigorating the campus with state-of-the-art facilities and infrastructure that today's—and tomorrow's—college students need to prepare for thriving and impactful 21st-century careers.

I am happy to announce that the first building project of Transformation 2025 will be the Recreation and Fitness Center to be unveiled in the 2019-20 academic year. In addition to providing indoor space for a wide range of sports and a fitness center for all students, this new facility will support one of our most important goals—a work/life balance for MSJ students, faculty, and staff that guides them toward achieving healthier lifestyles.

One of the largest features of the Recreation and Fitness Center will be free-spanning interior space to accommodate several Lions sports, such as track & field, softball, baseball, lacrosse, and soccer, as well as the dance teams. A secondary level will include exercise equipment such as treadmills, stair climbers, stationary bicycles, and elliptical and rowing machines. As the first rollout of Transformation 2025, perhaps this renovated facility is the best symbol of the Mount's own goal to “get in shape” for the 21st century.

It is our turn and our time to go beyond borders and boundaries and to do our part for the global and common good—all while ensuring we don't forget what makes the Mount unique. As we approach our centennial in 2020, Transformation 2025 will reinvigorate our legacy with a renewed purpose to advance core values and accelerate the student experience with innovative, relevant academic programs and a vibrant campus experience.

I would also like to pay tribute to a couple of longstanding members of the Mount community who recently retired: Chief Compliance and Risk Officer Linda Panzeca '82 and CFO Anne Marie Wagner '84. Both alumnae served in critical leadership roles at the Mount throughout the decades. Linda provided leadership across the entire University as it related to governance, risk management, and compliance. Anne Marie managed the Mount's finances during several growth projects and through the terms of five presidents (some of what you can read about in this issue).

Indeed, the formulation of Transformation 2025 would not have been possible without the incredible work and support of Linda and Anne Marie, but also all of the Sisters of Charity, faculty, staff, students, and alumni who helped make the Mount what it is today. It will ensure that our University is ready to help students meet the demands and challenges of a new generation.

Best regards,

H. James Williams, Ph.D.