



2900 North Menomonee
River Parkway
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
53222-4597
www.mtmary.edu

414-258-4810

For More Information:
Susan Shimshak, 414-256-1221
shimshas@mtmary.edu

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Mount Mary College to Become Mount Mary University

MILWAUKEE (February 24, 2012) – Mount Mary College is pleased to announce that on February 24, the institution’s Board of Trustees unanimously approved changing the institution’s name to Mount Mary University. The news was shared with students, faculty and staff on February 24th. The name change will become effective fall, 2013 marking the 100th anniversary of the institution.

“Mount Mary has a century long tradition of excellence in higher education,” says Dr. Eileen Schwalbach, president of Mount Mary. “The name change more accurately reflects the breadth of our bachelor, master and doctorate degree programs including their emphasis on pedagogical and applied research,” she stated. “In fact, the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education has long placed us in the “Master’s Colleges and Universities (Small Programs) classification.”

According to Schwalbach, the name change has been under consideration for more than a year, and was substantiated by the faculty as the College launched its first doctorate—and the first doctorate in the country—for Art Therapy. In 2011, a 16-member task force was appointed to study the issue and secure feedback from all key internal and external constituencies, including the School Sisters of Notre Dame who sponsor the College, alumnae, students, faculty, employees, and friends of the College. In addition, an outside research firm conducted surveys and focus groups. Information gathered from the task force and research firm revealed name change support from all constituencies.

The name change will not impact the school’s commitment to its roots as a four-year Catholic college for women. According to Schwalbach, the undergraduate programs at Mount Mary University will remain women-only with the exception of the co-ed Nursing program which is offered jointly with Columbia College of Nursing. The master and doctorate programs will continue to be open to both men and women.

“Changing our name is very exciting,” says Schwalbach. “Our core identity, the experience we provide our students, and our service to the community will continue to be the hallmarks of a Mount Mary education.”

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Mount Mary College, founded in 1913 by the School Sisters of Notre Dame, was Wisconsin's first four-year, degree-granting Catholic college for women. Located on an 80-acre campus in Milwaukee, the College offers more than 30 undergraduate majors for women and eight graduate programs for women and men. Mount Mary also emphasizes study abroad, service learning, and social justice initiatives. Its nearly 1900 students enjoy small class sizes (average 14) and over 90 percent of full-time students receive financial aid or scholarships. Through classroom instruction and community service, Mount Mary develops women to be leaders in their professions and their communities, serving as role models to inspire achievement in others. Visit Mount Mary at www.mtmary.edu.

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