

Dear Chestnut Hill College Community,

Please accept this initial communication as a deeply grateful, humble, and appreciative acceptance of the opportunity to collaboratively join the Chestnut Hill College community. To say that I have big shoes to fill given the range and breadth of your accomplishments over the past three decades guided by the leadership of Sister Carol is the understatement of the age. As a result, the primary message I hope to convey here is the focus I will place on listening and learning from the full range of constituencies of the College to define together the path forward. And rather than simply alluding to this commitment to shared governance and decision making, I would like to articulate that my initial efforts will include a series of open forums across the full complement of College stakeholders. Additionally, Maria and I will host a series of gatherings at our home with students, faculty, staff, and community partners. These get-togethers will help me to better understand faculty expertise, student aspirations, staff excellence, and partnership opportunities. I also very much look forward to fully engaging with the Sisters of Saint Joseph to learn from you while seeking to define new ways to champion your mission and legacy in the lived experience of the Chestnut Hill College community and beyond.

Yet I also anticipate the Chestnut Hill College community will expect from its President an articulation of vision. Still informed by a collective and inclusive process, my priorities will likely focus on a detailed and transparent plan for enrollment management; enhancing diversity and inclusion across every facet of the College as an extension of the mission of the Sisters of Saint Joseph; diversifying streams of revenue beyond enrollment via means that support faculty excellence; and enhancing the College brand regionally and nationally.

Over the years, my professional experience, family, and faith have led me to the conclusion that the care we take of one another provides one fundamental basis to those we care for to go forward into the world and meet others with compassion, civility, and industry. I can think of no better environment in which to foster this care than Chestnut Hill College. I can think of no legacy that represents true inclusivity, compassion, and service more as the basis of this care than the mission and Charisms of the Sisters of Saint Joseph. While we will face challenges ahead, I am steadfast in my belief that as we work together to define common goals with measurable outcomes we will not only sustain the traditions of Chestnut Hill College yet also define ways to further and celebrate this critically important and cherished mission. Maria and I and our daughters heartily look forward to joining the Chestnut Hill College community. With deep respect and warm regards.

Bill Latimer, Ph.D., M.P.H.