

THE JESUIT, CATHOLIC MISSION OF U.S. JESUIT COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES



ASSOCIATION *of*
JESUIT COLLEGES
& UNIVERSITIES

AJCU

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The logo consists of the letters 'AJCU' in a white, serif font, enclosed within a dark blue rectangular box. This box is centered between two horizontal lines that extend to the left and right.

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The following statement offers a consensus reflection of the twenty-eight presidents of U.S. Jesuit colleges and universities on the Jesuit, Catholic identity shared by these institutions. It was developed through several drafts in preparation for a dialogue between presidents and the U.S. provincials of the Society of Jesus in October 2010.

The consensus statement has been written in such a way that it can stand on its own and can be used, independently of the dialogue with the provincials, in other conversations, e.g. with our boards or university colleagues, Jesuit communities, etc.

The statement describes how the presidents understand the apostolate of Jesuit higher education within the framework of the overall national Jesuit apostolic strategy, and addresses key relationships and important issues as seen by the presidents. We see this statement as part of an ongoing dialogue and welcome feedback from our colleagues and friends.

This statement was approved by the presidents of U.S. Jesuit colleges and universities in January 2010.

Presidents of the Association of
Jesuit Colleges and Universities

PREFACE

The apostolate of higher education has a prominent role in the mission of the Society of Jesus in the United States and internationally. From the beginning of its history, the Society of Jesus has seen the importance of this ministry for bringing about the greater apostolic good and has invested significantly in it as a primary way of striving to fulfill the Society's mission. More than in any other country Jesuit colleges and universities in the United States, now twenty-eight in number and positioned across the country, have been in the forefront of the Society's apostolic mission, and have contributed significantly to that common mission. As the Society of Jesus in the United States discerns its apostolic future and determines a more coordinated and focused national apostolic strategy, the Jesuit colleges and universities will play a vital, new, and often leading role in that strategic mission. The future is apostolically promising for the Jesuit colleges and universities in the United States as they respond to new opportunities, face common issues and challenges, work together with one another more closely, link with the international Jesuit higher education network, and engage as apostolic partners with all Jesuit works within a common mission.

In order to open up this way to the future, it is important to have a clear understanding of the nature of this apostolate, underscore its proper way of operating, and clarify its key relationships with the Society of Jesus and with others. This consensus statement of the presidents explains first of all the defining character and apostolic rationale of the Jesuit colleges and universities, articulates their manner of collaboration and governance, and addresses a set of key relationships vital to engaging positively in the common Jesuit apostolic mission.



DEFINING CHARACTER: CATHOLIC, JESUIT UNIVERSITIES

Being “Catholic, Jesuit universities” is not simply one characteristic among others but is our defining character, what makes us to be uniquely what we are. Our apostolic rationale flows from this defining character.

Our apostolic significance is founded on the fact that we are universities with all of the essential dimensions of what universities are and do. Our primary mission is the education and formation of our students for the sake of the kind of persons they become and their wide influence for good in society in their lives, professions, and service. We agree with Fr. Kolvenbach, “The real measure of our Jesuit universities lies in who our students become.” We carry out this university education through highly qualified professors and colleagues acting with academic freedom for the sake of the full pursuit of the truth and the students’ free attainment of knowledge and values. As colleges and universities, we exercise an intellectual apostolate vital to the Society of Jesus and long a recognized characteristic of its tradition in teaching, in scholarship, and within the community of other scholars and intellectuals for the sake of the advancement of knowledge and the service of society. This unique work of our 28 institutions as colleges and universities in the United States, its impact on the lives of our students, and the access it makes possible to persons of influence in our country and beyond is very significant apostolically both for the Catholic Church and the Society of Jesus.

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We are Catholic colleges and universities and see ourselves as an important ministry of the Catholic Church. We are committed to and guided by the official understanding of a Catholic university as articulated in the Church’s document Ex Corde Ecclesiae (*From the Heart of the Church*). We do many things which are essential for the Catholic Church to do: educating and forming an adult Catholic laity,


continuing to educate first-generation Catholic immigrant populations, developing a dialogue between Church and culture, providing a forum to address important issues of Church and society, making available scholarly and educational resources to the Church, supporting ecumenical and interfaith dialogue, and making contact with and representing the Church to many persons it would not otherwise encounter. We do all of this within the essential framework of faith and reason, which mutually confirm and advance each other. Our Jesuit colleges and universities are the largest and most united network of Catholic higher education within the United States. From a national, Jesuit perspective this special kind of service to the Church is apostolically invaluable.

As Jesuit colleges and universities, we are a continuation of the Ignatian heritage and of the distinctive tradition of Jesuit education.

This means that St. Ignatius, with his charism and his *Spiritual Exercises*, inspires and gives shape to how we educate in a way that seeks God in all things, promotes discernment, and “engages the world through a careful analysis of context, in dialogue with experience, evaluated through reflection, for the sake of action, and with openness, always, to evaluation”. (General Congregation of the Jesuits #35 = GC35.) We are Jesuit also in the sense of having a clear relationship

with the Society of Jesus which is formalized in written understandings, sharing the Society’s “commitment to a faith that does justice through interreligious dialogue and a creative engagement with culture” (GC35), and a willingness to have our mission as Jesuit educational works evaluated as being in alignment with the overall mission of the Society of Jesus. We prize this Jesuit character, which uniquely characterizes how we are Catholic colleges and universities. We celebrate and honor the fact that we originate from the Society of Jesus with its charism officially affirmed by the Catholic Church, are served by Jesuits and other persons of Ignatian inspiration, and are part of the overall ministry of the Society of Jesus and the Catholic Church in our country and globally.

Each of our colleges and universities in its own way gives priority of attention to being faithful to, deepening, and applying this Catholic, Jesuit character in what it does. The specific means we use for this run into the hundreds, are well resourced and staffed within our institutions, are coordinated by a person charged with responsibility to further this character, and are shared across our schools and our association so that we learn from and build on the experience of one another. We are committed to and we seek to deepen this Catholic, Jesuit character in collaboration with Jesuit provincials, with bishops and other Catholic leaders, with one another as Jesuit universities, our Jesuit communities, our college and university colleagues, and other Jesuit works. We seek a closer collaboration and dialogue with the Society of Jesus and the Catholic Church in making our defining character as Catholic, Jesuit colleges and universities more real and evident.



FURTHER DIMENSIONS OF OUR APOSTOLIC RATIONALE

Some of the other aspects of the apostolic rationale of our colleges and universities are the following:

- a. We believe in the transforming power of the education of our students as whole persons and the inculcation of our Catholic and Jesuit values so that our students become the kind of persons who are leaders manifesting these values in whatever they do. One of the central goals of our education is to form students as adult Catholic leaders. Our primary way of serving faith and promoting justice is inherent in the very kind of education we offer all of our students and in who they become. We believe this impact through our students is apostolically very significant for the Society's overall mission in the United States.
- b. Essential to our rationale as Jesuit colleges and universities is how we are committed and contribute to the Society's "apostolic preference" of the intellectual apostolate as reaffirmed by GC35. We recognize that this is a dimension of all Jesuit ministries and we wish to play our part in supporting them in this as well as learning from them. We believe that endowed with the scholarly and educational resources we have and the significant intellectual dedication of Jesuits assigned to our colleges/universities, we take a lead now and can do more in the future in making the intellectual apostolate of the Society a reality in the United States. We do this through

formative teaching, conscientious scholarship, and public dialogue. Analysis of the accomplishments and aims of the intellectual apostolate among us shows that it emphasizes the Society's apostolic priority of the service of faith through the promotion of justice dynamically related to cultural and interreligious dialogue.

- c. The Jesuit colleges and universities of today are committed to continuing the historic mission of educating first generation students. Our students are of a wide diversity of economic, cultural, ethnic, religious, and geographic backgrounds. We prioritize the education of these often vulnerable and underserved students at great financial sacrifice to our institutions for the sake of their access to and success within our Jesuit colleges and universities and their needed influence of Society with our Catholic and Jesuit values.
- d. Our Jesuit colleges and universities serve communities locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally in more particular ways. All of our colleges and universities serve the persistently poor, the homeless, racial minorities, the unemployed, victims of discrimination, immigrants, etc. through our students, alumni, and through a wide range of university/college programs of direct community engagement. We also educate for solidarity with and action on behalf of the globally destitute and hungry, forced migrants and refugees, the religiously oppressed, and others. Through scholarship, advocacy, and participation in associations we actively contribute in understanding and responding to local, national, and global issues and systems, which impact the lives of “the least” in our country and world. We are key participants in engaging the social issues of our cities, region, and country and we bring our institutional resources to bear on these issues.

- e. For several years global engagement has become an essential element of our rationale as colleges and universities. The internationalization of the curriculum and experiences of students, the education of international students, the connections and exchange programs developed with universities—often Jesuit universities—in other countries, the application of scholarship to global issues, and the programs of learning from and bringing educational resources to other countries are part of the global engagement which is now an essential dimension and strength of each of our colleges and universities. We believe our 28 Jesuit colleges and universities—and the growing instances of our networking with Jesuit universities worldwide—provide the largest and most important apostolic opportunity for the Society of Jesus in the United States to actualize the global mission to which it is called.
- f. Pope Benedict XVI and the 35th General Congregation reaffirm the Society’s role to be at the “heart” of the Church and yet to work on the “frontiers” where the Church engages culture and the critical issues of our day. Our Jesuit colleges and universities, while faithful to their Catholic character, are a principal apostolate of the Society which engages culture, dialogues with persons of other religions, beliefs, and values, welcomes a generation of students of a new mindset, and enters into and seeks to provide a public forum for informed discussion of controversial issues with civil discourse. In all we do, we seek to bring the gospel which inspires us to our culture, to evangelize and to learn from it, and to live with the tensions which are inherent in walking on the edge of these frontier situations. No apostolate of the Society of Jesus in the United States is better poised or better suited by its nature to fulfill the Jesuit mission of being at the “heart” of the Church and “sent to the frontiers”.



COLLABORATION AND GOVERNANCE

The Society of Jesus' way of operating apostolically from the beginning of its history has been strongly collaborative, especially with lay people who have exercised leadership and responsibility within Jesuit works. This takes a new and more intentional form today in all of our works and to the highest degree in our colleges and universities. Trustees, faculty, staff, alumni, students and their families, friends, and those we serve and learn from play an essential role in shaping our mission. Our way of collaboration and governance for the sake of fulfilling our distinctive Jesuit educational mission in our colleges and universities today calls for an accommodation and adaptation to time, place, and people which has always been the hallmark of the Jesuit "way of proceeding". It simply takes new forms today.

The full responsibility for the policy, governance, and operation of each of our colleges and universities rests with its board of directors, trustees, or regents as established by articles of incorporation and/or by-laws. Each of these institutions is legally and functionally independent of the Society of Jesus and its provinces and institutions. Provincials, for instance, do not exercise authority in the external or internal governance of these institutions. The board has fiduciary responsibility for—holds in trust—what enables the institution to be what it is. Most importantly, it holds in trust the Catholic, Jesuit character of the college or university and has a responsibility to understand, assure, provide resources to support, foster, and assess this character.

Our boards have brought us better management, sounder financial status, higher academic quality and education of the whole person, and a fuller realization of being distinctively Catholic, Jesuit universities and colleges. We recognize the increasing importance of the preparation and ongoing formation of our board members for bearing the responsibility of fulfilling the Catholic, Jesuit purpose of our colleges and universities and we welcome sharing ways with the Society of Jesus for this formational process of our boards.

At the same time that each Jesuit college and university has this proper and necessary independence and responsibility,

“Trustees, faculty, staff, alumni, students and their families, friends, and those we serve and learn from play an essential role in shaping our mission.”

it welcomes and needs to have for its integrity as a Jesuit university an actual, lived relationship with the Society of Jesus, especially as represented by the provincials of the Society (and very importantly with the Jesuits and Jesuit community of the college or university—cf. below #4). Essentially the college/university must have open and good communication, mutual listening and learning, and committed partnership or collaboration with the Society of Jesus, and in particular with provincials. The provincial should not be a stranger to the university but be welcomed and—to the extent

possible—known within it.

It is vital that each college and university fiduciary board, as well as each president, have open dialogue with the provincial regularly initiated by the university and as requested by the provincial. This dialogue provides a context for support of the Jesuit character, understanding of initiatives and apostolic emphases of the Society of Jesus, the solidarity of the university with other Jesuit ministries, knowledge about the formation, availability, and assignment of Jesuits

for the ministry of Jesuit higher education, the promotion of vocations to the Society by the university, programs for the formation of lay apostolic partners, and the role of the provincial in the process of the board's appointment of a president. The more the board and the president can have an open and ongoing dialogue with the provincial and a spirit of working in welcomed partnership between them, the more the issues and opportunities of relationship with the Society of Jesus—for the good of both the mission of the Society and the college/university—can be addressed and mutually supported. Most of what is needed in regard to all of the issues of relationship can be resolved by improved communication.

In our colleges and universities, Jesuits comprise less than five percent of the total number of faculty, staff, and administration. These institutions depend overwhelmingly on “lay apostolic partnership” or collegueship. Already the leadership of our institutions, whether as deans, directors of programs, or central administration, is overwhelmingly exercised by persons who are not Jesuits and it is foreseen that fewer of our presidents in the future will be Jesuits. Because of their responsibility, our boards are also a critical part of the reality of lay apostolic partnership. We are long familiar with this evolution and have actively been engaged with it. We recognize both that it calls for special initiatives to assure the Jesuit character of our colleges and universities and that it is an opportunity that we should welcome for new apostolic vitality in the future.

Each of our colleges and universities has created responsibilities, structures, and programs for the hiring, orienting, and developing of faculty and staff according to our Catholic, Jesuit mission. We make available special retreats, seminars in Ignatian spirituality and Jesuit education, programs and colloquia which seek to enhance Catholic, Jesuit identity, development and scholarship opportunities, service and immersion experiences, special events that focus

on our mission, and we utilize university convocations, conferences, liturgical celebrations, and award ceremonies to articulate our Catholic, Jesuit identity. Some of our colleges and universities have established special institutes of Jesuit and Catholic studies. At the same time, we take advantage of several regional and national programs of formation in Jesuit leadership for colleagues in higher education such as the AJCU Seminar on Higher Education Leadership and the Ignatian Colleagues Program.

We also see and have begun to experience how reliance on apostolic partners brings a richness, a new vision and application, and a compelling witness to our students. These are signs that, if properly supported and fostered, this evolution of responsibility and leadership by apostolic partners for the sake of our Catholic, Jesuit character can be very promising. We believe that the integrity of our mission and its robust quality can be stronger in the future if we know how to welcome, to invest in, to support, and to work with apostolic partners in the way called for by GC34, GC35, and the U.S. provincials' document "Responding to the Call of Christ". Essentially, we see this evolution as an opportunity.



JESUITS AND JESUIT COMMUNITIES

The presence, work, and witness of Jesuits on our campuses with our students, colleagues, and alumni are of inestimable value. They embody in a lived and unparalleled way the Jesuit character of our ministry. Our students, colleagues, and alumni respect and identify with Jesuits as being at the heart of Jesuit education. The impression Jesuits make and the apostolic impact they have is profound. We acknowledge the ways in which Jesuit communities are changing, on some campuses becoming multi-apostolic in composition rather than primarily university apostolic communities. We recognize that it is not possible to articulate here one viewpoint which fits the situation of all universities and their Jesuit communities.

We see the role of the Jesuit community as a community first of all as corporately incarnating, supporting, and animating the Catholic, Jesuit character of our colleges and universities. It is important that the community does this in collaboration with and in mutual support of faculty, staff, students, and board members. It makes a difference to how our colleges and universities are Jesuit that there is a Jesuit community at the heart of the university in addition to there being individual Jesuits. Because the Jesuit community—both for its own integrity and for the sake of the college/university—remains outside ordinary university structures and governance, it has the unique opportunity to make more personal and communal the lived meaning of the Jesuit character. The community's ministry is vital in regard to embodying and witnessing to this Jesuit character

that individual persons or the institution itself cannot do, but only the Jesuit community can do. Their hospitality, prayer, cohesion, and residing presence as a group of Jesuits personalizes and concretizes the Jesuit character in a relational way. Their knowledge of the *Spiritual Exercises*, leading retreats for faculty, staff, and students, giving spiritual direction, assisting in lay apostolic formation, bringing a Jesuit

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perspective to teaching, collegueship, and committees, and significant ministerial and sacramental service are critical to the animation of the university as a genuine apostolate. We are committed as presidents to make sure that our Jesuit communities know their inherent value to the colleges and universities and to learn from them in what ways we can be of support in the fulfillment of their apostolic purpose as communities.

Most of our students and colleagues, because of their knowledge of and personal relationship with Jesuits, do not believe that Jesuit education—at least as anything like what they experience it to be—is possible without Jesuits who embody, concretize, or personalize it in the college or university. It seems to be the case, however, that this impact does not depend completely on there being a sizable number of Jesuits, but at least some, who visibly represent by their presence

the commitment and engagement of Jesuits with the college or university. Because of the size and great variety of the faculty, staff, schools, and students of our institutions, we do not believe they can realistically maintain their Jesuit identity unless Jesuits are assigned to and work within them. We welcome the variety of ways we, as presidents, can work with

provincials to support Jesuits in their apostolic development, opening to them wider opportunities for engagement, and helping to develop their leadership within our colleges and universities.

We are learning that the kind of presence and work Jesuits may have can differ greatly from one college or university to another. For instance, because of their nature, some universities may need Jesuits who are scholars and others may not, but may need Jesuits in other equally important roles. While respecting that Jesuits should have a status that is credible with other university colleagues, we have already begun to and can increasingly find new ways for Jesuits to contribute to our educational missions as they live out their Jesuit calling and bring all of their gifts and formation to this apostolate.

We believe that the current assignment process for Jesuits to colleges and universities, though conceptually correct in its essential principles of the assignment of Jesuits on a national basis and for apostolic purposes, sometimes does not work well in practice or in its details. We believe that if these principles and the respective roles of Jesuits, the college/university, and the provincial in the process were better observed in practice, and if communication between colleges/universities and provincials about apostolic needs, especially on a national or conference-wide basis, were improved, the mission of the Society and of the colleges/universities within that larger mission would be better served.

We do not recommend that the Society of Jesus in the United States decide at this time that Jesuits should be assigned to some colleges or universities but not others. We believe that we are different enough in emphases, programs, size, and wider or more regional impact that this varied and rich Jesuit apostolic concreteness should be honored and supported by the assignment of Jesuits when and where it is apostolically appropriate to do so. As we develop greater lay leadership and enhance our Catholic, Jesuit character

as colleges and universities, we need the assistance of Jesuits as colleagues especially in the formation of persons for this future. We also think we should explore how the reconfiguration of Jesuit provinces—with its resultant new networks of colleges and universities—can make possible through collaboration new and more apostolically creative ways of assignment of Jesuits among universities. But this remains for the future and more experience is needed to consider other models or strategies. We are realistic that we will have fewer Jesuits in our colleges or universities in the future and that we will need with time to develop new models and strategies for missioning Jesuits, but their consideration can only follow how we advance formation of lay colleagues and undergo foreseen changes. We are committed at this time both to finding the greatest apostolic opportunity for Jesuits and simultaneously to maximizing the formation and responsibility of apostolic partners for greater leadership of our Jesuit apostolic institutions.



PRESIDENTS, RECTORS, AND PROVINCIALS

Presidents, as “Directors of the Apostolic Work”, and rectors, as religious superiors of individual Jesuits and of the Jesuit community (or a delegate of the rector in the instance where the rector is not involved in the college or university), need above all to have regular, open, and trusting communication. This communication may concern the work of individual Jesuits, new opportunities for Jesuit involvement and assignment, ideas for how the community might help animate the Jesuit character, ways in which the college or university can know more about and recognize the community in its identity, how it can promote vocations to the Society of Jesus, and other ways of mutual assistance to one another. This dialogue should be kept clearly separate from the relation of the rector as religious superior with the president as Jesuit and as a member of the community. As presidents, we will find ways to highlight the responsibility and role of the rector of the community and we will seek occasions and communications to make the Jesuit community more recognized for its important role in the college or university. The ongoing relationship and communication of the president with the university Jesuit community as a whole should be fostered. Especially in institutions where the president is not a Jesuit, communication should be assured and strengthened in order that the knowledge of the community about the university and its role in it be clear.

Open communication not only between presidents and rectors but also with others is called for to clarify the difference between the institutional role and responsibility

of the Vice President for Mission and Ministry (or persons of similar titles and responsibilities) and the role of the rector as the religious superior of the Jesuit community. While not an official of the university, the rector leads the community in its corporate animation of the apostolate and its initiatives as a community within the college or university. The rector supports each Jesuit in his apostolic work, helps the community discern common apostolic initiatives, leads the community in its hospitality of university colleagues and students, helps it decide how to promote vocations, and at times represents and articulates the Society's apostolic

priorities and commitments. The apostolic assistance of the rector to the college or university in this regard will likely increase as fewer presidents, as Directors of the Jesuit Apostolic Work, are themselves Jesuits.

We encourage provincials to play an important role in the process by which the university, through its governing board, chooses the president of the college or university as this is articulated in the joint Jesuit Conference and Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities document: *The Role of the Society of Jesus in the Selection of a President for a U.S. Jesuit College or*

University. The kind of regular communication called for above between the provincial and the university, and especially its board, is foundational for how the provincial can be involved when this process of the university and its board occurs. The provincial's ongoing knowledge of the university or college allows him in the time of the search for a president to identify or to encourage potential Jesuits, to discuss with them their availability and suitability, to confer with their own provincial, and to give his clearance for their service as a Jesuit in this apostolic role within the province.

The ongoing relationship and communication of the president with the university Jesuit community as a whole should be fostered.

From the experience of the ongoing communication with the university and board he can advise the search committee of opportunities or challenges he sees the president—whether Jesuit or not—as Director of the Apostolic Work will face. The provincial should be informed of candidates who are not Jesuits and know of their qualifications to be the Director of the Apostolic Work in furthering its Catholic, Jesuit character. He should be able to discuss his views about this responsibility with the candidate and the search committee. As Director of the Apostolic Work, the new president, whether Jesuit or not, appointed by the board, should be “missioned” to this Jesuit apostolic aspect of his responsibility by the provincial on behalf of the Society of Jesus. Experience shows that this “missioning”, especially when done publicly, is very meaningful not only to presidents who are Jesuits but very supportive of presidents who are not Jesuits. The provincial’s involvement in the search process in these ways can reassure the college or university and the province of their unity of purpose and mutual support.



RELATIONSHIP WITH BISHOPS

The Jesuit colleges and universities in the United States are in both an advantageous and challenging position in regard to relationships with bishops. We are often the ministry and dimension of the Society most in contact and communication with bishops and therefore have an opportunity of collaboration, mutual support, and personal relationship which is unique and is of special significance for the relationship of the whole Society of Jesus with the episcopacy. We also, however, live a tension in our relationship with bishops because of our visibility, our representation of the Church in the minds of many, our attempts to live the reality of being in harmony with the Magisterium together with upholding academic freedom, the way in which we are called to be Catholic differently from other ministries, the academically credible work of our theologians which serves the wider purposes of the Church, and the ways in which colleges and universities necessarily make decisions in a different mode from how they are made by bishops. Pope Benedict alludes to this when he says in his address to the Jesuits attending GC35 that he knows this tension is “a particularly sensitive and demanding point for you and not a few of your confreres, especially those engaged in theological research, interreligious dialogue and dialogue with the contemporary culture”.

We have learned that there is no substitute for direct and frequent communication between presidents and bishops. This can help resolve or at least ameliorate some of the lived tension we experience. At times the anxieties which bishops

experience and the pressures they are under because of complaints of others come from not being in regular contact with presidents and not being knowledgeable of relevant university matters. As presidents we can do better in this regard.

We would welcome dialogue with bishops in order that they: 1) understand and appreciate better what we are as Catholic universities, 2) see and publicly make known that our colleges and universities play an important—though unique—role among ministries of the Church and that we are not extraneous to its ministry, and 3) communicate directly with us and we with them rather than through provincials or other third parties about matters of concern. We would welcome knowing from bishops what they most need from us and what are ways they see we can more fully serve the Church with our educational resources and within our proper identity as Catholic, Jesuit universities. We are committed to partnership and dialogue with the bishops in carrying out this important and vital ministry for the Church in the United States.



As presidents we are excited about the contributions of our colleges and universities as a leading and more relevant than ever part of the overall apostolate of the Society of Jesus in the United States within its unified mission. We believe these colleges and universities are truly “apostolic instruments” for striving to accomplish what the Society of Jesus is discerning is most important for it to do within our country, for the people who need us most and with whom we are especially committed to work, and for the wider impact globally of our apostolic endeavors. We take to heart the values and priorities, which the leadership of the Society of Jesus in

the United States has adopted, by which it has called us and all Jesuit ministries to be challenged and guided. We are committed to work with our colleagues, with our Jesuit communities and other Jesuit works, and with the leadership of the Society of Jesus to grow together in a fuller and more unified realization of our common mission that is so vital to our Church, to the people of our country, and to our world.

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