



Office of the President

Dear Members of the Anna Maria Community:

With great gratitude for the opportunity to serve Anna Maria College, I write to let you know that, earlier this week, I formally notified the Board of Trustees that this academic year (2024-25) will be my last as your president. As I approach retirement, I reflect with great pride on all we have accomplished together, and the foundation laid to advance the work in the years ahead. The support, as president, that I have been offered by the Board of Trustees is beyond compare, and the College has benefited from that unwavering counsel.

I also want to acknowledge the faculty and staff who partnered fully with me to meet every challenge Anna Maria faced—such as a pandemic, economic upheavals, demographic changes, and public skepticism about private colleges like ours. Their creativity, hard work, innovation, and love of the College and our students are institutional strengths, and the foundation for continued success.

Most importantly, throughout my tenure as president, the heart and soul of my leadership are the students I have had the privilege to serve. From the moment they stepped on campus to the proud celebration of their commencement, I have been honored to be a part of this transformative journey in their lives. Every decision I made was guided by their educational dreams and aspirations. As alumni, they embody the spirit of Anna Maria College. It is my hope that my years as president will be remembered through their success and achievements.

Despite these challenging times for higher education, it is with great optimism that I end my 45 years serving numerous institutions, none more important to me than Anna Maria. In the future, as in the past, the core values of the Sisters of Saint Anne will guide this College. These values are more relevant now than ever. They are embodied within our teaching and in our care for our students beyond the classroom.

There is much work to accomplish in the year ahead. I am passionately committed to working together to ensure our continued growth and strength and to help ensure an excellent transition in presidential leadership.

For now, I extend my appreciation for the many blessings I have received as your president and look forward in the year ahead to helping prepare us for Something Greater!

Sincerely,

Mary Lou Retelle