



Iona College  
715 North Avenue, New Rochelle, NY 10801-1890  
Phone: (914) 633-2000

November 8, 2011

Dear Iona College Alumni,

The College recently discovered inaccuracies in student performance data reported to external agencies. The Board of Trustees and I subsequently initiated a thorough investigation by outside legal counsel with the assistance of a third-party independent auditing firm. The audit found that inaccurate data—related to acceptance rates, SAT scores, graduation rates, and alumni who give annually—was reported to external agencies.

As a result, the Board of Trustees approved my recommendation to remove the current Provost and to name Dr. Brian Nickerson as Interim Provost. This is just one of the steps taken to ensure our continued commitment to the values of justice, peace, and service in the education of young men and women.

In addition to Dr. Nickerson's appointment, we have taken the following actions:

- 1) Established the Integrity in Reporting Committee, comprised of College administrative staff leaders and faculty, to provide status reports regarding current and future actions in response to this matter. Information about the committee is available at <http://www.iona.edu/about/reportcommittee/>.
- 2) Reported our preliminary concerns regarding the reliability and validity of data, the findings of the audit and the accurate data to the external agencies.
- 3) Developed institutional policies and guidelines on appropriate collection, reporting, and use of data, and committed the College to further routine self reporting.
- 4) Ensured transparency to all constituencies including students, parents, faculty, staff, alumni and others, and made the report of audit findings available to the public at <http://www.iona.edu/about/reportcommittee/>.
- 5) The Iona College Board of Legal Trustees and administration have committed to the following actions:
  - Establishing a formal Office of Institutional Research.
  - Renewing the College Code of Conduct with the involvement and commitment of faculty, staff and students.

The Alumni Board of Directors passed a unanimous resolution supporting the actions taken by the College to ensure complete transparency as a reflection of our values and integrity. The Alumni Board, the Board of Trustees and I agree that the character of the College will be evident in the way we handle this issue. As a Catholic institution of higher education we carry compassion yet we will not accept a lack of integrity. Knowingly reporting inaccurate information cannot and will not be tolerated.

I assure you that student life has not been interrupted or affected in any way as a result of the audit findings and subsequent actions. As always, the Board of Trustees, the Iona College Community, and I are fully committed to caring for the growth, development and success of students, faculty, staff and alumni who are Iona College.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joseph E. Nyre".

Joseph E. Nyre, Ph.D.  
President