September 8, 2011

Dear Members and Supporters of Iona College,

The College has recently taken a number of steps to ensure our continued commitment to the values of justice, peace, and service in the education of young men and women. You may have recently learned that the Board of Trustees approved my recommendation to name Dr. Brian Nickerson as Interim Provost. This action was taken to ensure and uphold the integrity and mission of the College after learning of irregularities in student performance data reported from the office of the former Provost to external agencies.

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

1. Established an Integrity in Reporting Committee to review and provide status reports regarding current and future actions. [http://www.iona.edu/about/reportcommittee/](http://www.iona.edu/about/reportcommittee/)
2. Commenced an audit by a third-party independent auditing firm and investigation by outside counsel.
3. Reported preliminary concerns regarding reliability and validity of data to external agencies.
4. Committed the college to further self reporting once the audit and investigation have concluded.
5. Ensured transparency to all constituencies including students, parents, faculty, staff, alumni and others.

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. This behavior is not indicative of the integrity of Iona College but rather individual judgment and human frailty.

The principles that are indicative of the integrity of the College remain constant: students who are hungry to learn, serve and succeed in life, and the faculty and staff who every day recommit themselves to the mission of developing “ethical and skilled decision makers and problem solvers motivated to leadership, service and civic responsibility.” [http://www.iona.edu/about/mission.cfm](http://www.iona.edu/about/mission.cfm)

The measure of the College, or one’s life for that matter, is not the tally of problems or their severity. Rather it is the method in which we move to correct and resolve such problems and prevent them from recurring in the future. That is the measure of our character at Iona College. The Board of Trustees, the Iona 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,

Joseph E. Nyre, Ph.D.
President