

Our Quantum Leap
Becoming the Most Entrepreneurial Innovative Community-engaged
Catholic University in the Midwest

I. Welcome and Recognitions

Allied health professions such as respiratory therapy, radiation therapy, physical therapy, are also seeing major shortages, which is making it harder for people to get basic care.

I've had several health care executives contact me about the glaring staffing shortages. Open positions number in the tens of thousands and they are scrambling to fill them.

Our job is to help bolster the health care talent pipeline to meet these growing workforce development needs.

Our solution is to provide cutting-edge curriculum and programs that produce top-notch talent to fill these in-demand careers.

We have an outstanding nursing program with degrees for those just entering the field all the way up to the doctoral level.

Our physician assistant program was one of the first in the country and recently celebrated 50-year anniversary.

We are also planning a second dental clinic in a Southeast Michigan community that needs to allow our dental school to grow.

In doing so, we will help meet the demand for care and provide our students with top-notch experiences as they enter their profession.

We have also responded to Macomb Community College's request for proposals to offer a bachelor's degree completion program in nursing at their Clinton Township campus.

Earlier this month Crain's Detroit Business visited our campus to report on our efforts to address the workforce development challenges facing our regions' health care systems.

We'll continue to look for innovative ways to define health care education in the 21st century.

Challenge Racial Inequities and Social Injustice

Another major problem society faces is longstanding systemic racial inequities and social injustices.

There's a growing discrepancy between those who have a lot and those who have a little.

This widening wealth gap is not only unfair and immoral, but also hurting our society and holding our country back from reaching its full collective potential.

We have a unique role to play.

We must continue to build cost-effective, flexible pathways for adult learners who have completed some college credit to return to school and earn a degree.

We also need an increased focus on first-generation college students.

My father had an 8 grade education. He was street smart and worked hard. I wanted to be sure I had opportunities.

Because my mother was ill during my childhood my father would drop me off on Saturdays at the library, and Good Samaritan librarians took me under their wing and looked out for me

From the time I was five to 12 years old I spent an enormous amount of time at the library. It's a big reason why I was able to succeed in school and go to college when my parents hadn't.

As the first person in my family to go to college, I remember my first day at a large state school with 25,000 students.

I didn't have a clue what I was supposed to be doing and almost left.

My wife Lechia had a similar situation. Neither of her parents went to high school, and her brothers were both high school dropouts who eventually went back to get their GEDs and went on to be successful.

These experiences instilled in us an understanding of what barriers are there for first-generation students and families

Together, let's build the environment where students from lower socioeconomic standing can become the first of their families to attend and graduate college

That's going to take a commitment of this entire institution from executive leadership to alumni to students and faculty

It's going to require fundraising and new partnerships with foundations and state and federal resources

It's going to take a lot of work, but we are uniquely positioned to lead and provide opportunities to students that aspire to be the first in their family to attend college and graduate.

There are many people here in Detroit who deserve that opportunity—and Detroit Mercy should find ways to make that happen.

VII. Strategic Initiatives to Launch Detroit Mercy Forward

At Detroit Mercy, we're Catholic with a big C.

We embrace all Catholicism has to offer, its social teachings and intellectual traditions in theology and philosophy

We are the Sisters of Mercy We are the Jesy

The city is ready to rally around championship sports and as proud Titans, we should be at the center of that.

The Titan Guarantee: Experiential learning

As part of our next strategic plan, we intend to launch a new program we will call the Titan Guarantee that will serve as a major differentiator in what we offer prospective students

The Titan Guarantee is the promise that every year student who attends our school will have a high impact, experiential education experience before they graduate.

Whether an internship or Coop with an employer in the city or some other hands-on experience relevant to their field, suEMC /Pp

Thank you,

Godspeed