

Dr. Jim Dlugos

James Dlugos became the 14th president of Saint Joseph's College in July 2012 and retired at the conclusion of the 2022-23 fiscal year. During his presidency, he championed a bold plan for ensuring Saint Joseph's place as an exemplary 21st-century Catholic college in the Mercy and liberal arts traditions.

Under his leadership, the College pursued a series of ambitious initiatives with the goal of building and sustaining a vibrant person- and learner-centered community committed to preparing leaders for a world in need and made significant investments to foster engagement and learning both inside and outside the curriculum and classroom for a diverse multi-generational learning community.

During his tenure, investments in campus facilities resulted in upgraded technology in all teaching and learning spaces; new science labs designed to support an extensive student-faculty research program; a new "learning commons" that reflects contemporary understanding of research and collaboration; refreshed residence halls and a fully renovated student center to enhance the residential and campus experience of Saint Joseph's students; and new and refreshed athletic facilities, including a new turf field and track center, that support the College's 22 NCAA Division III intercollegiate athletic teams and our student-athletes. A suite of five brand new, state of the art nursing/health care simulation labs were dedicated in September of 2023 as part of the college's commitment to address the critical workforce needs in health care.

In addition to these capital improvements, Dr. Dlugos established the Institute for Integrative Aging, the Center for Faith and Spirituality, and the Center for Sustainable Communities. Other initiatives include the establishment of the Office of Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion; the hiring of the College's first Chief Diversity Officer; the establishment of the Talbot Scholars Program, and Community², an innovative partnership with Southern Maine Community College that allows for "seamless transfer" between the partner institutions.

Dr. Dlugos' embrace of innovative, entrepreneurial approaches to ensure growth and sustainability for Saint Joseph's earned him recognition in 2015 as one of *Maine* magazine's "50 Mainers" who are shaping the future of our state.

At the College's May 2023 Commencement, Dr. Dlugos was awarded the degree *Doctor of Humane Letters, honoris causa* in recognition of his decade-plus of service to the Saint Joseph's College of Maine learning community.