

COMMENTARY FROM THE COMMUNITY



"Dr. Mellon has been the epitome of a servant leader. She came to the University and immediately analyzed what we needed, and then promptly developed a strategic vision to propel us to the next level of achievement. She worked very hard to become integrated into the City of Pittsburgh and the Southwestern Pennsylvania region and to become an influential voice. Through her skilled and impactful leadership, she elevated the University's profile in areas in which we excel academically, and she advocated our Mercy mission beyond our traditional reach. She always leads by example and is dedicated in her commitment to our students and their academic and workforce successes.

In the past eight years, she has accomplished the completion of two strategic plans for the University and a successful Middle States Decennial Review; overseen the expansion of new specialty accreditations and graduate programs; built student outcomes that have shown strong growth in retention, student success and career outcomes; completed the first comprehensive campaign for the University that exceeded goal; championed signature capital projects that have transformed the University through the University Commons, the St. Joseph Fitness Center, state-of-the-art clinical simulation centers, and the lower campus development and P3 Project; stewarded an endowment that has grown by more than 80%; and created signature institutes and centers that exemplify the University's mission in the Social Justice Institutes and the Atkins Center for Ethics.

Dr. Mellon is consistently thoughtful and committed to our academic and social justice missions—and at the same time, always empathetic to the students' needs while keeping her focus on the larger



community and the University's economic responsibilities to all its stakeholders. Forever the teacher, she lives her calling with supreme sincerity and the highest of ethics—even in the toughest of times.

Dr. Mellon has been an extraordinary, innovative leader. While we are very sorry to see her retire, we are proud of the transformative legacy she has left for our students to emulate and enjoy. I will miss my friend but am comforted to know that she will be sharing the same strength of character and warm heart she has shown our students with her 11 grandchildren!"

— Dorothy A. Davis, JD '78, Chair, Board of Trustees

"Dr. Mellon is leaving an indelible mark on the University, having impacted every area of the institution, from the physical campus, to the academic colleges, to athletics, the endowment, and our community. The focus of her agenda has always been our students and assuring them of a high-quality education and 21st-century skills infused with Carlow's Catholic Mercy values. She is a woman of deep faith and integrity, and she not only sets an example through her leadership, she raises the bar for all of us. We have been guided by her conviction that our values and our community are our most critical asset. They enable us to prepare Carlow students to navigate the complexities of the modern world and to contribute to making it a better place. I know she has made all of us better."

— Shawn Nelson, Chief of Staff

"I have appreciated how much Dr. Mellon values the input of the students here on campus, whether they are undergraduate, graduate, adult or transfer students. She wants to make sure our voices are heard, and I was excited that she asked me to be on the Strategic Plan Innovation and Renewal Committee. Typically, universities don't ask students to take part in this type of committee, but she felt it was important to have student input. Thanks to Dr. Mellon advocating for student involvement, I had the opportunity to be exposed to new learning opportunities, and I gained experience that I wouldn't have been able to otherwise."

— Yousef Tamimi, Senior Biology Major



"Dr. Mellon's greatest challenge was to guide the University through the effects of the pandemic. Through her leadership, Carlow was able to make the necessary adjustments in the delivery of its programs at the highest level. Her response to the pandemic was immediate, courageous and efficient. From the very beginning, she has demonstrated a commitment to the overall good of the University, making and creating difficult changes while not losing sight of Carlow's mission as the stabilizing factor."

— **Jack Alverson, PhD, Professor Emeritus of Theology**

"When I first started my career at Carlow, I was asked to be on the Strategic Planning Committee as a faculty representative. To be honest, I don't think of myself as a businessperson—I am a nurse. I wasn't sure how helpful I would be on the committee, but Dr. Mellon recognized the importance of having me be involved and treated me like I was an integral part in the planning and decision making. She helped foster my growth as a professional, and that experience boosted my confidence in my work, and for that I am forever grateful for her."

— **Carla Tomas, FNP-C, RN, Faculty, Nursing**

"Dr. Mellon has provided a number of key community partners, like Habitat for Humanity of Greater Pittsburgh, with the opportunity to access and gain insight from her experiences at the University. We partnered with Carlow on an eye-opening community video highlighting the vital work we do at Habitat Pittsburgh for families in need. Dr. Mellon has been a great friend and mentor, and we're going to miss her presence here in Pittsburgh. She's been a gem for the community and for that we're thankful and appreciative."

— **Howard Slaughter Jr., DSc. '93, President and CEO, Habitat for Humanity of Greater Pittsburgh, President's Advisory Council**

"Dr. Suzanne Mellon is a true woman of spirit, inspiring many to embrace her vision. A leading advocate of the Catholic Mercy educational experience at Carlow, Dr. Mellon's tenure has attracted and developed students of strong character, high competency and immeasurable heart. Her leadership these past eight years has advanced the Sisters of Mercy legacy, granting access to a countless number of students who might otherwise not have had the opportunity, sending forth thousands of graduates intent on serving those in need—thereby creating a more just and merciful world."

— **Timothy Phillips, PhD, Vice President of Student Affairs and Dean of Students**



"I have always recognized Dr. Mellon as an academic leader. I feel that over her tenure, she really built on the vision and direction of her predecessors and on the 'audacity' and courage of the Sisters of Mercy. What she's done with the support of her faculty and staff has really positioned Carlow for success in Pittsburgh."

— **Mary Ann Sestili, PhD '61, Board Trustee Emerita**

"As a current donor and former trustee of Carlow, it has been an honor to work with Dr. Mellon during her tenure. Her leadership led the University forward in IT, social justice, campus renovations and building Carlow's endowment. She fostered Carlow's Catholic heritage in her commitment to the Mercy-based mission. Dr. Mellon pushed students to be adaptable to our changing world, to be lifelong learners and to be well prepared for exciting careers. One of her special gifts was enhancing Carlow's reputation and visibility through her leadership roles in the Pittsburgh/Oakland academic community. My life was blessed by her friendship."

— **Barbara Capozzi Kirr '60**