President Marcy named Bay Area Influential Woman

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The annual list honors women executives who have risen to the highest positions in corporations, nonprofit organizations, and government agencies. This is the third consecutive year President Marcy has been honored.

Mary B. Marcy became Dominican’s ninth President on July 1, 2011. Throughout her 22-year career in higher education leadership, President Marcy has driven major education reform initiatives and is advancing the transformation of Dominican into one of the Bay Area’s premier liberal arts institutions.

Guided by President Marcy’s leadership, the University pursues academic excellence aligned with the Dominican values, an educational model that is enduring and relevant, personal in its experience and global in its engagement. Her strategic vision emphasizes Engaged Learning, a distinctive model of higher education focused on the integration of the best of the liberal arts with rigorous professional training. Under her direction, Dominican aims to prepare students to become moral and ethical leaders, and thoughtfully-engaged scholars in the world.

In March, 2014 President Marcy announced a major gift to transform the university through a series of initiatives focused on best practices in higher education. The gift – Dominican’s largest ever – from Andrew Barowsky, chair of the University’s Board of Trustees. When fully realized the gift will mean $25 million in new revenue to the university, initiated by $17.5 million in outright gifts led by the chairman.

In fall 2012, President Marcy announced an $8.5 million gift to support the renovation of Meadowlands Hall, a 30,000 square-foot Victorian mansion, into a state-of-the-art academic facility.

President Marcy currently serves on the editorial board of the Journal of Liberal Education, the Academic Advisory Council of the Panetta Institute, and the Higher Education Advisory Board of the National Council on Education and the Economy. She is a member of the Board of Governors of the Commonwealth Club of California and sits on the Board of Directors of the North Bay Leadership Council. In 2012 and 2013, she was named one of the Bay Area’s “Most Influential Women in Business” by the San Francisco Business Times in recognition of her exemplary leadership in higher education.

Prior to joining Dominican, she served as Provost of Bard College at Simon’s Rock and Vice President at Bard College from 2004 until 2011. Previous to her leadership at Bard, President Marcy worked in both public and private institutions of higher education. Her experience includes leading of a national grant-funded Project on the Future of Higher Education through Antioch University, working as the first Dean of University Relations and Planning at Antioch University Seattle, and serving as the lead researcher and policy advisor to the President of Western Washington University. She was appointed by Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick to serve as a commissioner on the Commonwealth’s Public Education Nominating Council.

A political scientist, President Marcy earned her Doctorate of Philosophy and Master of Philosophy from the University of Oxford. Her research focuses on women in American politics, and she has published extensively on issues of diversity, leadership, and strategy in higher
education. Born and raised in western Nebraska, President Marcy received her Bachelor of Arts with honors from the University of Nebraska.

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