

Strategic Directions 2010

Summary Progress Report 2006-07

**Prepared by the Office of Planning, Research, and Communication
For the CSB Board of Trustees and the SJU Board of Regents**

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COLLEGE OF
Saint Benedict



Saint John's
UNIVERSITY

Strategic Directions 2010 Progress Report

Strategic Directions 2010 is a blueprint designed to secure the future of the colleges as premier, Catholic, undergraduate, liberal arts institutions. Approved in December 2004, the plan was designed around a series of learning and support designs. *Strategic Directions 2010* is a living document reviewed and updated annually by the Boards.

The summary below highlights major progress and accomplishments during the 2006-07 academic year in support of the plan's aspiration and objectives.

Liberal Learning Design

The College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University will provide a liberal arts education that:

- Engages students in demanding disciplinary and integrative learning experiences.
- Prepares students for engaging life work and a lifetime of continued learning and growth.
- Emphasizes and nurtures academic excellence and the individual development through exceptional classroom experiences enriched and reinforced by experiential education programs.

Highlights:

- In spring 2007, the Joint Faculty Assembly approved, and the Boards subsequently endorsed, the major elements of a new Common Curriculum to be implemented beginning in fall 2007 – the first major overhaul of the common curriculum in nearly 20 years.
- In fall 2006, three signature academic programs – international education, environmental studies, and public policy – were given center status. The centers will provide students with expanded learning opportunities and provide the colleges with new opportunities for academic distinction.
- In fall 2006, CSB/SJU was ranked second among baccalaureate colleges nationally in the number of students who study abroad by the Institute for International Education. Cohort study abroad participation rates reached 62% at CSB and 55% at SJU for the 2007 graduating class, both well in excess of national averages at liberal arts colleges.
- Academic Affairs and the two Institutional Advancement offices made significant progress on plans to create ten centers of academic excellence. In August 2007, the colleges received pledges to create two academic centers totaling \$10.3 million from CSB Trustee Tom Petters (\$5.3 million to establish the Thomas J. Petters Center for Global Education) and SJU Regent Dan Whalen (\$5 million to establish the Eugene J. McCarthy Center for Public

Policy and Civic Engagement). The centers will enhance student opportunities for integrated learning, promote faculty development, and raise public awareness about important contemporary issues.

- In fall 2006, the colleges began preparation for the Higher Learning Commission reaccreditation process, which will culminate with a site visit by a team representing the Commission in October 2008. The reaccreditation process is driven by a self-study. It provides an opportunity for the colleges not only to look back on what they have achieved in the past decade, but also and more importantly to look forward and establish the future direction of the institutions.

Gender Learning Design

The College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University will be a leader as institutions in learning and faculty scholarship in gender education.

Highlights:

- In spring 2006, the colleges appointed Dr. Ozzie Mayers Professor of Gender Education and Development. Dr. Mayers will coordinate gender initiatives inside and outside of the classroom on both campuses. The long-term objective of the position is to bring all of the colleges' many gender initiatives (including the Women's and Men's Lives Series, on-campus conferences, the Gender Learning Community, and the Gender and Women's Studies program) into dialogue with each other and to provide coherence to gender programming and curriculum.
- In fall 2006, the Board of Trustees and Board of Regents approved changing the Gender and Women's Studies program from a minor program of study to a major program.
- In spring 2007, the Joint Faculty Assembly approved a gender component for the Common Curriculum – which will create new gender learning requirements for all CSB and SJU students. The Boards will take action on the proposal at their November 2007 meeting.
- In spring 2007, the colleges created a first-ever gender scholarship prize. The prize will honor faculty, staff, and students who distinguish themselves for their dedication and scholarship toward educating on gender issues. Next year the colleges will establish a national prize in gender scholarship.

Residential Learning Design

The College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University will provide residential environments for student learning that foster community, are transformative, and integrate learning.

Highlights:

- The Inspiring Leaders Certificate Program was created to prepare students for leadership roles and responsibilities in service to the colleges and the community. The program sponsored workshops, events, and activities throughout the year developed on leadership models based in Benedictine values. More than 1,700 students participated in the ILCP during the 2006-07 academic year, with 47 students receiving leadership certification.
- The College of Saint Benedict completed work on a facilities master plan to guide campus planning for the next 20 years. In spring, the college finished construction of the Gorecki Conference and Dining Center, a state-of-the-art facility that not only expands dining options for students but creates an important central space for community. Also, in summer 2006 the college redesigned and expanded its physical fitness and workout space to expand health and wellness opportunities for our students.
- Saint John's University began work on revising its master plan, focusing much of its attention on improvements in residential life spaces. The University completed upgrades in Mary, Tommy, Bernard, Patrick, and Boniface Halls during 2006-07. Those five residential halls collectively house nearly all first-year and sophomore students at SJU and are particularly important for recruitment of new students. Over the course of the next year, the University will review and act on proposals to construct additional residential space and a community center in Flynntown (to better serve upper-class students) and to upgrade dining service facilities.

Spiritual Learning Design

The College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University will provide a Catholic and Benedictine experience that:

- Expresses and embodies the colleges' Catholic and Benedictine values and heritage.
- Provides a nationally distinctive program for students of all faiths to engage deeply in spiritual inquiry and development.
- Promotes thought and scholarship in theology and religious culture.

Highlights:

- In summer 2006, CSB received a \$500,000 grant from the Lilly Endowment to enhance and expand the Companions on a Journey Project, designed to bring students, faculty, staff, and alumnae together to connect their values with their life choices. A year earlier, SJU had received a similar sized grant from the Lilly Endowment to continue the activities of the Theological Exploration of Vocation project. In spring 2007, leadership for the Companions on a Journey Project and the Vocations Project was consolidated when Marian Diaz was appointed director of both grants.
- In fall 2006, the colleges initiated the first annual Heritage Day celebration to celebrate their Catholic and Benedictine values, tradition, and history.
- In spring 2007, the colleges developed a "Benedictine Living" proposal to promote the community-wide integration of the colleges' Catholic and Benedictine mission. Designed to sustain the work of the Companions Project and the Vocation Project, the new division in

- Academic Affairs would promote vocational reflection and prepare students for leadership and service in church and society. Final action on the proposal will be taken during the 2007-08 academic year.
- In spring 2007, the Joint Faculty Assembly approved inclusion of a second Theology course requirement as part of the new Common Curriculum (the current core curriculum requires only one Theology course).

Intercultural Learning Design

The College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University will provide an academic and residential environment that embraces and nurtures intercultural learning.

Highlights:

- In summer 2006, the colleges created the CSB/SJU Intercultural Center. BernaDette Wilson was hired as director of the new center, whose goal is to mentor, guide, and support students in developing intercultural awareness and understanding.
- Jamie Moquin was hired as the first director of the I-LEAD program. CSB and SJU enrolled 14 new I-LEAD students in fall 2006 and 22 in fall 2007. Retention rates for I-LEAD fellows are very high: 87% of the original 2005 cohort are still enrolled, and 93% of the 2006 cohort returned for their second year (a retention rate higher than the rate for the whole class that year).
- The Intercultural Directions Council helped lead and guide the development of intercultural learning goals in Dining Services, Human Resources, and Student Development – the first part of a multi-year plan to develop intercultural goals in all operating areas.
- Academic Affairs worked with the Minnesota Private College Council and three other Minnesota private colleges to initiate a collaborative program to recruit term faculty of color who are working to complete their dissertations. We expect to complete the program outline by December 2007.
- The Intercultural Directions Council worked with faculty leaders to create and present a proposal to add a diversity component to the Common Curriculum. The Joint Faculty Assembly will consider and act on the proposal in fall 2007.

Student Composition Design

The College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University will maintain their student academic profile and become more racially and ethnically, geographically, and socioeconomically diverse.

Highlights:

- In fall 2006, we achieved all of our sub-market new student recruitment goals related to national, international, and student of color enrollment. International students made up more than 5% of total new student enrollment, the highest point in more than five years. No other private college in Minnesota enrolled more new international students than CSB/SJU in fall 2006. In addition, American students of color comprised 5.9% of all new students, the highest total in a decade and nearly achieving the 6% threshold set in *Strategic Directions 2010*.
- In June 2006, we completed brand market research in support of Twin Cities and Minnesota enrollment objectives. That research has been used to shape recruitment and marketing activities in the Twin Cities and the metropolitan corridor.
- In April 2007, CSB and SJU each received \$1 million capital grants from the Bush Foundation for endowed student scholarships and financial aid. When fully matched, the combined grants will be worth \$4 million. CSB's grant will be used for endowed scholarships and initiatives that advance student learning. SJU's grant will be used for endowed scholarships.

National Visibility and Distinctiveness Design

The College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University will attain increased national recognition for their shared distinctive identity and institutional excellence.

Highlights:

- In spring 2007, the colleges were notified that they had advanced to the general application stage of candidacy for a Phi Beta Kappa chapter. We expect to submit our general application by October 2007, and have a site visit with Phi Beta Kappa scheduled in February 2008. It is difficult and rare for institutions to advance to the general application stage after just one application for candidacy. CSB/SJU was one of only six institutions nationally (out of 42 who submitted applications) to be forwarded to the general application stage.
- In FY 2006, we created the position of Coordinator of Competitive Fellowships and Awards to promote and encourage student applications to prestigious fellowship and scholarship programs (e.g. Rhodes, Fulbright, Goldwater, Truman, etc.). In May, two CSB graduating seniors were awarded Fulbright scholarships to teach in Thailand and Mexico in 2007-08. In addition, four graduating seniors – one from CSB and three from SJU – also were selected to teach in the Austrian Ministry of Education Teaching Assistantship program administered by the Fulbright Commission in Vienna.