

Strategic Directions 2020

Alumnae Listening Session – Rochester Area

November 5, 2014

President Hinton and Jon McGee met with CSB alumnae in the Rochester area to discuss the college's future and Strategic Directions 2020. President Hinton began by providing an overview of the planning process. She described the planning process as an opportunity to look forward and imagine a future for the College of Saint Benedict. The choices we make now and the directions we choose will impact the value of a CSB education for years to come. McGee provided a brief overview of the external market forces shaping and re-defining our opportunities and our challenges. President Hinton invited alumnae to reflect on the questions below.

What distinguishes you from your colleagues and peers because you attended the College of Saint Benedict?

Summary of responses:

- Our sense of service. We are committed to community and involved in our communities. CSB alumnae are other-directed, caring for others.
- Growth in leadership as women. CSB is a place that develops the genius of women very well.
- We are accountable to others. CSB focuses on and values development of the whole person and our broad responsibilities to others.
- We were encouraged to take advantage of opportunities to explore the whole of the world – different values and philosophies.
- CSB encouraged us to take advantage of opportunities outside of our comfort zone – to stretch ourselves and open new doors.
- We take risks to learn. We were encouraged to engage and follow our passion.
- The skills of the liberal arts are transferable to all professions and across our lives.

It is 2020. What makes the College of Saint Benedict distinctive from its competition?

Summary of responses:

- A strong sense of pride and tradition
- The idea that networks are about not only jobs but about personal relationships
- A powerful sense of community. The challenge is to look at the college's location and size as an asset, not a liability. Our location and size provide opportunities to create community: sharing a common place and common experiences. Our location encourages, even requires, students to make their own opportunities. The strong sense of community and connection at CSB could be very attractive to the changing young population.
- Study abroad as a key asset and experience.
- Fine arts opportunities.
- Our identity as a Catholic women's college
- Offering an exceptional liberal arts education to all who are interested in it.