

Strategic Directions 2020

Young Alumnae Session – Minneapolis Area

December, 1 2014

A total of 45 people attended the listening session

President Hinton and Jon McGee met with CSB alumnae in the Minneapolis 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 peers as a result of attending the College of Saint Benedict?

Summary of responses:

- A liberal Arts education. This includes critical thinking, strategic thinking, strong writing backgrounds, and a worldly view relating to others different from yourself.
- We have a strong network of Bennies and Johnnies. Those relationships are both professional and personal.
- Focus on community and giving back that includes volunteerism and philanthropy.
- CSB taught women to be thoughtful and mindful of others. We attribute that to the community value that is engrained into all that is done at CSB.
- CSB prepares women for leadership roles, both with skills and experiences.
- Empowerment of women. It was empowering to go to a school for women. That experience transforms into confidence in life and the workplace.
- We were prepared as women to have a broader view of the world and more global connections
- CSB taught us about the value of confidence, the ability to carry oneself well, and how to interact with all levels of professionals.
- We were prepared not only to brainstorm and create ideas, but also to condense those ideas, to go with the best or most practical choice and to follow through.
- CSB taught us we were capable of having the ability to wear many hats; employee, volunteer, mom, etc.
- The focus was on the whole person not only the academics.

It is 2020. What programs are essential in order to support the holistic development of women?

Summary of responses:

- Career development, which should include mandatory career development sessions and career explorations panels with round tables on various majors and companies.
- There is a need for well-rounded women to be strong in their career development and networking skills.

- Opportunities for mentorship between alumnae and students. It could include office time, lunch dates, job shadowing, and information about interviews, etc.
- Freshmen year (FYS) symposium should include exploration of majors. Faculty teams could bring information sessions into class or send students to events to learn.
- Focus on subspecialties that requires job shadowing over winter break and/or applying for summer internships.
- Leadership certificate programs for students. Leadership skills and how to effectively navigate the work place as a woman.
- Empowerment for women; IWL, Senate, CAB, ILCP's, etc.
- Masters and graduate programs.
- Financial/life skills; financial plan/budgeting, investing, health insurance, student loan management, life insurance, etc.
- Study abroad programs that create a global perspective. Cultural experience through campus programs or outreach programs.
- Outdoor activities, sports, intermural sports and fitness classes or workouts
- Readdress the residential experience to provide real world responsibility of living off campus at least one year.
- Spiritual components offered to students. More opportunities for spiritual exploration.
- Availability of many on campus jobs for all students
- Digital citizenship, digital footprint and social media.