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NEW CHANCELLOR NAMED FOR ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE

SPRINGFIELD, IL – The Board of Directors for St. John's College today announced Brenda Recchia Jeffers, Ph.D., R.N. has accepted an invitation to serve as the new chancellor for the College, which has been educating nursing students since 1886. Jeffers had previously served as Interim Associate Dean and Director of Master's/Doctoral Programs and Research at Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University in Normal.

"This is an exciting time to join St. John's College as it transforms itself to an educational institution that offers innovative programs designed to prepare students for careers in a rapidly changing health care environment," said Jeffers.

Jeffers received her Ph.D. in Nursing with a concentration in research methodology from Saint Louis University and her Master's and Bachelor's in Nursing from University of Illinois Chicago, College of Nursing. She received an Associate's Degree in Nursing from Lincoln Land Community College.

"I'm delighted with Brenda's appointment to the position of Chancellor/Dean," said Aggie Hayner, the incoming chairperson for St. John's College Board of Directors who chaired the search committee for the new chancellor. "She brings a combination of a strong background in the discipline of nursing education as well as a true commitment to our mission and vision. This will serve us well as we move into the future."

During her 34 year career Jeffers has led the development of two Master's sequences and one Ph.D. program; led efforts to secure \$1.7 million in research and program development grants; been cited in more than 40 nursing and interdisciplinary journals; and has been recognized for her contributions to nursing education by numerous national organizations through various awards and appointments.

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“Enhancing the mission and reach of St. John’s College is critically important to achieving one of the goals of Care Integration on a System-wide level which is to design the physician-nursing-clinician relationship model,” said Stephanie S. McCutcheon, President and CEO of Hospital Sisters Health System which operates St. John’s Hospital and twelve other ministries. “The appointment of Jeffers is a great opportunity to shape the future of nursing and support the tremendous history and heritage of our nursing Sisters,” McCutcheon added.

St. John’s College, Department of Nursing offers an upper division nursing program for students who have completed the prerequisite liberal arts and science courses. The College is accredited by the National League for Nursing Accreditation Commission and works with other organizations throughout central Illinois to provide a wide range of quality clinical experiences for students.

“We’re thrilled Brenda has accepted this important role in our healing ministry. As the oldest Catholic hospital school of nursing in the United States, the College has a proud tradition of educating nurses in the philosophy of the Hospital Sisters of St. Francis,” said Jean Becker, president, St. John’s College Alumni Association.

About St. John’s College

Sponsored by the Hospital Sisters of St. Francis, St. John’s College was founded in 1886 as St. John’s Hospital School of Nursing. The school was the first Catholic hospital nursing program in the United States and has stayed true to the mission of caring and healing. St. John’s College has a unique formal education mission in the Sisters’ healthcare ministry which includes 13 hospitals in two states, physician practices, and clinics.

Always on the cutting edge of innovation, the school added liberal arts and science classes to the curriculum in 1927. It made the transition to a College with a Department of Nursing in 1991. The College has professional nursing accreditation from the National League for Nursing Accreditation Commission.

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