
CONFERRAL OF THE HONORARY DEGREE

DOCTOR OF HUMANITIES, *honoris causa*

Dr. Michael Galligan-Stierle

Dr. Michael Galligan-Stierle has devoted his life's work to cultivating and enhancing Catholic higher education and campus culture in both the United States and abroad.

Dr. Galligan-Stierle has served as both a national and international leader in Catholic higher education, in part through his mission-driven leadership of the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities (ACCU), first as Vice-President from 2006 to 2010, and currently as President, beginning in 2010. The Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities, a voluntary association founded in 1899, serves as the collective voice of U.S. Catholic higher education. The Association currently represents more than ninety percent of the country's accredited Catholic institutions of higher learning, and twenty-four international universities. During Dr. Galligan-Stierle's leadership, the Association has significantly grown its revenue, staffing, and innovative programming and resources, especially for strengthening an institution's Catholic identity and engaging the Catholic Intellectual Tradition and Catholic Social Teaching, reflecting the Association's primary aims: helping member institutions strengthen their Catholic mission and fostering mission-based collaboration among member Catholic colleges and universities.

Dr. Galligan-Stierle also served for five years as the Assistant Secretary for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) for Catholic Higher Education and Campus Ministry. And for thirty years, he has served in various higher education settings as a campus minister, Religious Studies undergraduate and graduate professor, seminary teacher, diocesan higher education administrator, and practicum director for graduate students in pastoral ministry.

Dr. Galligan-Stierle's life's work began as a spark from a "transformative retreat experience where [he] witnessed men, women and students earnestly having fun in the context of a faith-filled leadership retreat experience." His first role serving Catholic higher education was as an undergraduate Peer Campus Minister at St. Mary's University in San Antonio, TX, where he earned a B.S. in Philosophy and Theology. Soon after, he served as a member of the Campus Ministry team at Loyola College in Baltimore, MD, where he earned his M.A. in Psychology in Guidance and Counseling. He also earned another Master's in Theology and a doctorate in Scripture, both at St. Mary's Ecumenical Institute in Baltimore. During this time, he served as Director of Campus Ministry at the University of Maryland Baltimore County, in Relay, MD, the first of many of Campus Ministry leadership positions throughout his career, including at the College of Boca Raton, in FL; Florida Atlantic University; Broward Community College in Pompano Beach, FL; the Archdiocese of Miami Pastoral Center; and Wheeling Jesuit University in Wheeling, WV.

Dr. Galligan-Stierle has also served as both Co-Director and Instructor of the Frank J. Lewis Institute for Campus Ministry Orientation, and as Creator and Director of the Campus Ministry Leadership Institute, recognized as an Exemplary Campus Ministry Leadership Program by the USCCB. He has also successfully administered numerous grant initiatives, many of which forged and strengthened faith-based opportunities and leadership in higher education.

Drawing on his extensive leadership, education, teaching, and additional training, Dr. Galligan-Stierle has published numerous books and articles, including the foundational text for campus ministry practice in the United States, *Gospel on Campus: A Handbook of Campus Ministry Programs and Resources* (USCCB Publishing, 1996). Other key texts include *A Mission Officer Handbook: Advancing Catholic Identity and University Mission, Volume I* (ACCU, 2014) and *A Mission Officer Handbook: Collaborating with Partners, Volume II* (ACCU, 2015). Dr. Galligan-Stierle is also the editor of *Promising Practices: Collaboration Among Catholic Bishops and University Presidents* (Sacred Heart University Press, 2005), featuring the work of fifteen presidents and fifteen bishops. And he has recently partnered with leaders in student affairs editing a new book, *Student Life in Catholic Higher Education: Advancing Good Practice* (Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities, 2017).

Dr. Galligan-Stierle also currently serves as the publisher of the *Journal of Catholic Higher Education* (since 2007), and on the editorial board for *Momentum*, a publication of the National Catholic Education Association (since 2006). Current professional associations include: Catholic Campus Ministry Association (CCMA), Catholic Biblical Association (CBA), and the Society of Biblical Literature (SBL).

Dr. Galligan-Stierle has received numerous awards for his extraordinary commitment to Catholic higher education, including: The Champion for Higher Education Award, by the Council for Christian Colleges & Universities "for individuals who have demonstrated unparalleled dedication to higher education" (2019); The Chaminade Founders Award, by Chaminade-Madonna College Preparatory, "for those individuals who have demonstrated a full understanding of the Marianist charism with their lives & service" (2017); The Archbishop Paul Hallinan Award, by the Catholic Campus Ministry Association (CCMA), "for significantly supporting the growth and development of campus ministry and for outstanding encouragement and support to CCMA" (2007); and The Reverend Charles Forsyth Award, by CCMA, "for Outstanding Leadership in Campus Ministry, Empowerment of Campus Ministers, and Service to CCMA" (1989).

Born in Philadelphia and raised in South Florida, the oldest of eight children, Dr. Galligan-Stierle attended Catholic schools throughout his life, noting that his parents, neither of whom completed high school, "worked multiple jobs so they could provide a Catholic education for all their children." He and his wife Pamela, married for forty years, are the parents of four grown children and six grandchildren. Throughout his life, Dr. Galligan-Stierle has been mentored by many and has mentored many, especially college students, reflecting his unique "ability to gather others to share faith" and his belief that "God created us for a purpose. Each of us is very different. . . God made us *all*."

Dr. Galligan-Stierle's lifelong, singular dedication to enhancing Catholic institutions of higher education, both nationally and internationally, reflects well the Mission values of Lewis University.

For these and other pertinent reasons, we are most pleased and privileged to confer on Dr. Michael Galligan-Stierle, the degree of Doctor of Humanities, *honoris causa*, with all rights and privileges thereof. Done at Romeoville, Illinois, this 19th day of May, 2019.