
CONFERRAL OF THE HONORARY DEGREE

DOCTOR OF HUMANITIES, *honoris causa*

Gery Short, M.Div., M.A., M.S.

Through his teaching, coordinating, developing, and leading—both regionally and internationally, and with a special focus on Mission—Gery Short has embraced for more than 30 years his vocation as a lay person in the Church serving the students, faculty, staff, and administrators of the District of San Francisco New Orleans and the worldwide Catholic and Lasallian Mission of the Brothers of the Christian Schools—the sponsors of Lewis University since 1960. Indeed, as “a member of the first generation of lay persons to play a significant role in the leadership of the Institute,” Mr. Short is “a pioneer... setting the stage for more and more lay men and women to step into leadership roles with the Christian Brothers at local, District, Regional, and international levels.”

Gery Short began his groundbreaking affiliation with the De La Salle Christian Brothers as a Social Studies and Religion teacher and department chair at Saint Mary’s College High School in Berkley, California. He then served for ten years as Coordinator of Lasallian School Programs for the De La Salle Christian Brothers in the District of San Francisco focusing on Lasallian formation and professional development activities for Mission; and for the past twenty-one years, Mr. Short served as the Director of the District Office of Education, during which time he and his staff developed and implemented a highly regarded set of comprehensive formation programs for District administrators, teachers, staff, and students; as well as helped launch six new District schools, “almost all exclusively founded to serve the poor.”

Throughout his vocation, Mr. Short was invited to participate with the Brothers in significant Mission-related leadership roles, affecting the very direction of the international network of Lasallian schools, including as the first lay person to serve on a District Leadership team in the Institute; as a member of the Regional Task Force to establish a shared governance structure for the Mission of Lasallian Schools in the United States and Canada; as a lay consultant to both the 1993 and 2000 General Chapters in Rome; as a member of the International Commission on Association; and as chair of the

First International Mission Assembly in 2006. In addition, as a reflection of the Brothers’ Mission commitment to the poor, Mr. Short developed and coordinated national and international immersion programs to help students and educators meet those less fortunate than themselves and to witness directly and personally the valuable impact that service and education can have in the lives of others.

His expertise, creativity, and wisdom are highly valued and appreciated. Over his many years of service, Mr. Short has held numerous task force, committee, and board appointments, including as Chair of the National Lasallian Education Council and as a member of both the Instituto Fe y Vida Board and the Board of Saint Mary’s Press. He also played a pivotal role in the creation of the Lasallian Leadership Institute—a national formation program developed to prepare emerging leaders for work in the Lasallian network of schools and universities.

Born and raised in Detroit, Mr. Short received his undergraduate degree from the University of Michigan; a Master’s of Divinity degree from the Franciscan School of Theology in Berkeley, California; a Master of Arts degree in Theology from Graduate Theological Union, also in Berkeley; and a Master’s of Science degree in Human Resource Management and Organizational Development from Golden Gate University in San Francisco. He and his wife Rosanne, a registered nurse, have two daughters, Nora and Megan and a son, Joseph.

Throughout a lifetime of dedication to the Catholic Church, and in particular to the Brothers of the Christian Schools, Gery Short has exemplified the pivotal role of the lay leader in Catholic and Lasallian education, and in turn, reflects well the Mission of Lewis University and its commitment to educating the next generation of lay leaders.

For these and other pertinent reasons, we are most pleased and privileged to confer on Gery Short the degree of Doctor of Humanities, *honoris causa*, with all rights and privileges thereof. Done at Romeoville, Illinois, this 21st day of May, 2017.