



Catholic Diocese
of Cleveland

Cathedral Square

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS

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New President of Cleveland Central Catholic High School Named

Cleveland, OH – The Diocese of Cleveland’s Office of Catholic Education has appointed Deborah Richardson-Phillips, Ph.D., as the next President of Cleveland Central Catholic High School (CCC). An accomplished leader with over 25 years of experience within Catholic, public, and private secondary and post-secondary schools. Dr. Richardson-Phillips brings to CCC strong skills and proven experience in strategic planning, community partnership, donor engagement, and relationship building.

In addition to leadership experience at St. Ignatius High School (Cleveland) and most recently as the president of Loyola High School (Detroit), Richardson-Phillips holds a bachelor of arts degree in political science from Winston-Salem State University, and doctoral and master’s degrees in human development and public administration respectively from the University of Delaware. Dr. Richardson-Phillips expressed great enthusiasm for this opportunity to join the Cleveland Central Catholic community, “I am particularly drawn to this opportunity because of Cleveland Central Catholic’s commitment to embracing challenges as opportunities – a philosophy I deeply resonate with. It will be an honor to contribute to nurturing an environment where students can prepare confidently for their futures.”

Associate Superintendent for Secondary Schools, Michael Zelenka, offered his excitement surrounding Dr. Richardson-Phillips appointment, “The Diocese of Cleveland’s Office of Catholic Education believes that Dr. Richardson-Phillips possesses the skills and passion to effectively lead Cleveland Central Catholic High School as its next President. Dr. Richardson-Phillips’s deep faith inspires her work as a Catholic school leader and her experience in various sectors - Catholic secondary schools, higher education, and business - provides a broad set of talents to effectively lead organizations and personnel. A leader who prides herself on forming authentic personal relationships with all members of the community, her emphasis on teamwork and open communication act as hallmarks of her collaborative style.”

Cleveland Central Catholic Principal, Sr. Allison Marie Gusdanovic, SND, indicated her eagerness to partner with Dr. Richardson-Phillips and welcome her into the Ironman family, stating, “We welcome Dr. Richardson-Phillips to Cleveland Central Catholic and look forward to ministering with her as we prepare our students to embrace the future with confidence and hope.”

Founded in 1968 when St. Stanislaus, St. Michael the Archangel, Our Lady of Lourdes, and St. John Cantius schools merged, Cleveland Central Catholic is a diocesan-sponsored, co-educational, comprehensive, college preparatory high school. Committed to fostering the spiritual growth, academic excellence, and leadership of each student, CCC serves approximately 450 students from across the greater Cleveland area.