

Dr. Rosalie M. Mirenda
President of Neumann University
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Dr. Rosalie M. Mirenda became president of Neumann University in July of 1996. From the moment she took the helm of the institution, she has forged a reputation as a tireless advocate and savvy visionary. Since she became president, the total enrollment tripled (from 900 to 2,900), annual and capital giving increased by more than 30 percent, the campus has expanded from 14 to 68 acres, new academic programs were added (including three doctorates), athletic teams have grown from 9 to 24, and state of the art residence halls have been built to accommodate more than 700 students.

In 2009, the University opened the Mirenda Center for Sport, Spirituality and Character Development, a 72,000 square foot facility named in honor of Dr. Mirenda and her husband, Tony. Designed to be more than an athletic center, the building uses exhibits and storytelling to provide a new perspective on sports, one that goes beyond the obvious element of competition to address the myriad ways in which students learn life lessons, develop character, and deepen spirituality through sports. Athletic fields were added and/or upgraded and the science and nursing laboratories were renovated as was the library and the Chapel to ensure appropriate environments for student learning, growth, and success.

Dr. Mirenda is committed to the Catholic Franciscan mission of the University, which is based on the belief that knowledge, while valuable in itself, is best used in the service of others. She has enhanced this distinctive identity while leading Neumann into its future. Dr. Mirenda takes great pride in sharing her Catholic faith, beliefs and wisdom with others, both as a writer and a speaker. She participated and spoke at the *Rally for Freedom: Relevance to higher Education – Stand up for Religious Freedom in 2012*. In addition, Dr. Mirenda has presented at a number of varied higher education annual meetings and conferences on the *Role of Mission and Student Experience*, *Optimizing the Role of Collaboration in Meeting Institutional Challenges*, and *Ensuring Student Success: Getting the Right Fit*.

She has served on many boards, including the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities, the PA Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, Seton Hall University, Archmere Academy, Holy Child Academy, and the Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary. Recently, she served on the board of the World Meeting of Families 2015, Inc., and served as Chair of Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary's Task Force on College, which completed its work in June 2013. She was appointed by the late Bishop Joseph McFadden to the ExCorde Ecclesiae Working Group for the Committee on Catholic Education of the U.S. Conference of Bishops. Neumann University, through Dr. Mirenda's efforts, spearheaded the formation of the Drexel Neumann Academy in Chester, Pa, now celebrating its 10th year.

Dr. Mirenda has been recognized by a number of organizations for her steadfast faith, distinguished character and numerous accomplishments. She received the Gary Papa Award (2013) from the Delaware County Community Foundation, the Sons of Italy Distinguished Achievement Award (2013), the Sourin Award (2012) from the Catholic Philopatrian Society, the Catholic Graduate Hall of Fame Award (2011) from the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, the Woman on the Move Award (2011) from Main Line Times, The Keys and Sword Award (2011) from Cathedral Basilica of Sts. Peter and Paul, the Catholic Leadership Institute Award (2010), the Outstanding Alumnus Award (2006) from Widener University, the Pontifical Honor of the Cross, Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice (2003), and the Nursing Alumna Award (1999).

from Villanova University. In 2005, Dr. Mirenda was awarded the honorary degree from Saint Charles Seminary.

Dr. Mirenda earned her Ph.D. from Widener University, her MSN from the University of Pennsylvania, and her B. S. in Nursing from Villanova University. She has been married to Anthony D. Mirenda for over 50 years. They have three children and five grandchildren.