Cleveland - August 16, 2019 – Saint Joseph Academy (SJA) President Mary Ann Corrigan-Davis ’71 announced today that after her fourteenth year, she will retire from that position at the end of the 2019-2020 academic year.

President Corrigan-Davis was named the first president of SJA in July 2006. In the tradition of the Sisters of the Congregation of St. Joseph, she led the transformation of the Academy with a global, forward-thinking approach and championed success inside and outside of the classroom.

“Leading SJA as president for the past thirteen years has been a blessing in my life, and I am so proud of the many achievements of SJA during my tenure, the culmination of a true team effort. The Academy’s exceptional curriculum, co-curricular and extra-curricular programs are second to none,” said Corrigan-Davis. “SJA is in an outstanding position as we begin our 130th year dedicated to excellence in education of young women, and I am confident it will continue to flourish under new leadership in the years to come. Although I will no longer be president of this wonderful institution, I will remain a Jaguar for life!”

President Corrigan-Davis emphasized and fostered a diverse student population as an “all kinds of girls school” and a faith-filled environment where young women are emboldened to flourish and broaden their horizons as leaders who value their minds, their faith and the “dear neighbor.”

Corrigan-Davis also elevated the academic offerings and programs, expanded the arts and athletic teams, broadened the professional and international opportunities for students, strengthened the financial foundation and improved the physical facilities for the dynamic learning environment and the growing enrollment of students. Other groundbreaking initiatives she introduced include the Junior Professional Shadowing program and the annual Women’s Leadership Symposium.

“Mary Ann’s unwavering and tireless commitment to the Academy and its students is commendable. I am grateful that she will assist the new president’s transition into the role. On a personal level, she has served as a sounding board for me on leadership, organizational politics and navigating the challenges of being a female leader in our community,” shared K. Kelly Hancock, DNP, RN, NE-BC, Executive Chief Nursing Officer, Cleveland Clinic, and the current board chairperson at SJA.

Moving from a senior corporate leadership role at American Greetings to president at SJA, Corrigan-Davis embraced the mission-driven institution where service-to-others is central to the character of the school and each of its students.
“Mary Ann has been intentional in promoting our charism of unifying love and created a model for others to follow. We are blessed to have had her lead this important work for more than a dozen years,” said Janet Fleischhacker, CSJ, Executive Director, CSJ Ministries, Congregation of St. Joseph.

Above all, President Corrigan-Davis is most proud of the thousands of students who have worked hard to achieve their dreams and continue to unify the world. This year’s student body, affectionately know as her “705 daughters,” will forever hold a special place in her heart.

“Every student at the Academy has individual interests and Mrs. Corrigan-Davis makes an effort to provide as much support and guidance as she can for each and every one of us. Without her encouragement, I never would have had the courage to work so hard to reach for the stars. In the fall, I will attend my dream college on a considerable merit scholarship,” said Olivia Martinez ’19.

A search for SJA’s next president has been commenced with the plan of having a successor in place by the summer of 2020.

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**About Mary Ann Corrigan-Davis**

Distinguished Alumna Mary Ann Corrigan-Davis served on the Saint Joseph Academy board of directors twice and was board chair twice. In July 2006 when she was named the Academy’s first president, she was one of the few female executives in the city of Cleveland to hold a position that focuses more on the business and development end of school operations.

Mary Ann worked at American Greetings Corporation for 27 years, starting as a sales representative and rising to Senior Vice President of International Operations and later Senior Vice President of Business Innovation.

She currently serves on the Board of Trustees of the Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage and the Fairview Hospital Community Advisory Board. Her previous board experience includes Saint Ignatius High School, John Carroll University, The Visiting Nurse Association Hospice, In Counsel with Women, and as mentioned, Saint Joseph Academy.

In 2015, Mary Ann was named by *Crain’s Cleveland Business* as a “Woman of Note,” an honor is given to community leaders who illustrate strength, success and fortitude in successful and varied careers. Then in 2019, Mary Ann was named as one of the “Notable Women in Education” for dedication, leadership and example in creating and expanding learning opportunities in a host of fields that help shape a better future.

Over the years Mary Ann has been honored as a distinguished alumna by both Saint Joseph Academy and John Carroll University. Other honors include the 2002 Greater Cleveland YWCA Women of Achievement award, the 2003 Irish American Archives Society Walks of Life award, the 2004 Rainmaker by *Northern Ohio Live* magazine, the 2007 Athena Award from Athena International, the Lifetime Achievement Award from American Greetings Corporation in 2007 and *The Irish Voice’s* prestigious “Irish Education 100” list for 2011.

**About Saint Joseph Academy**

Now in its 130th year, Saint Joseph Academy is the only all-girls Catholic high school in the City of Cleveland. With a current enrollment of 705 young women, Saint Joseph Academy is rooted in the spirituality of the Congregation of St. Joseph and works to foster unifying relationships with God and all creation. Each young woman is empowered to achieve academic excellence, and inspired to a life of compassionate leadership and service in a global society. Saint Joseph Academy is located at 3470 Rocky River Drive in Cleveland. For more information, visit www.sja1890.org or call 216.251.6788.