2016 TIAA Institute
Theodore M. Hesburgh Award
for Leadership Excellence

Honoring Patricia A. McGuire
President, Trinity Washington University
“Patricia McGuire challenged the status quo and fought fearlessly to transform Trinity. Her drive and vision will ensure that generations of women and others can be part of a campus community that supports their intellectual growth and academic success.”

Stephanie Bell-Rose
TIAA Senior Managing Director
Head of the TIAA Institute
The TIAA Institute Theodore M. Hesburgh Award for Leadership Excellence in Higher Education is named in honor of the late Reverend Theodore M. Hesburgh, C.S.C., one of the most influential figures in the modern history of higher education and, for 28 years, a member of the TIAA and CREF Boards of Overseers. The Hesburgh Award serves as a tribute to his lasting legacy and is an inspiration to fearless leaders in education.

About the award
The Hesburgh Award is given to a current college or university president or chancellor who embodies Father Hesburgh’s commitment to higher education and society at large. It is sponsored by the TIAA Institute and presented at the annual meeting of the American Council on Education (ACE). Award recipients are chosen by an independent panel of judges, and ACE administers the award on the Institute’s behalf.
Honoring Patricia A. McGuire
President, Trinity Washington University

2016 Recipient of the TIAA Institute Theodore M. Hesburgh Award for Leadership Excellence in Higher Education

A compelling model for transformation

“Fix it or close it.” This was the challenge before Patricia McGuire when she became president of Trinity Washington University in 1989. Founded nearly a century before, Trinity was one of the nation’s first Catholic women’s colleges, but dwindling enrollment, mounting financial woes and doubts about the relevance of the women-only education model threatened its future.

Over President McGuire’s 27-year tenure, she has led Trinity through a series of remarkable changes that have “fixed”—and transformed—the institution, and made it a national example to others, providing access and success for low-income students of color.

“Whatever you value, be committed to it and let nothing distract you from this goal. The uncommitted life, like Plato’s unexamined life, is not worth living.”

*The Hesburgh Papers, 1979*
Among President McGuire’s accomplishments:

- Committing to racial and religious diversity, and to the local community. President McGuire’s commitment to diversity can be seen in the undergraduate student body. Today it is 95% African-American and Latina and more than half come from Washington, D.C., including immigrant families from Africa, the Caribbean and Central America.

- Advancing Trinity’s founding mission—to meet the learning needs of women for whom college is the surest route to economic security. During President McGuire’s tenure, enrollment in the women-only undergraduate college has tripled and is a model for the women’s college of the future.

- Adding new academic units. These include the School of Professional Studies; the School of Education; the School of Nursing and Health Professions; and most recently, the School of Business and Professional Studies.

- Spearheading strategic investments in infrastructure. Trinity’s sports complex for women and girls, opened in 2003, has become a cornerstone for both the campus and the community. Later this year, the $35 million Trinity Academic Center will open, Trinity’s first new academic facility in more than half a century. Its state-of-the-art technologies will support Trinity’s Science, Technology, Engineering, Math (STEM) education and healthcare disciplines.

- Building the faculty for the future. President McGuire has worked closely with Trinity’s provost, deans and other stakeholders to recruit outstanding academic and intellectual partners.
Meeting the critical demands for education

President McGuire has been a tireless and outspoken advocate on critical issues confronting Washington, D.C., and the national education community:

- Through the White House Summit on College Opportunity, she is working with the Washington, D.C. public schools to analyze student performance to better understand learning dynamics that enhance student success.
- As access remains one of education’s greatest challenges, Trinity has been at the forefront of educational expansion efforts, imagining new forms of student engagement.
- Trinity was the first private nonprofit university invited to participate in a national scholarship program for undocumented students through TheDream.US.
- Research has become a core part of the Trinity experience. Science students have interned at prestigious laboratories, including the National Institutes of Health. Psychology and social science programs also are incorporating research into their undergraduate curricula.

President McGuire has testified before Congress and served on countless boards, including the Department of Education’s Advisory Committee on Student Financial Aid, accreditation teams for Middle States and New England associations, and higher education organizations. She was named one of the “Power 100” and the “most admired” educator by the Washington Business Journal.

Despite these accomplishments, President McGuire is the first to say that this is a work in progress. As society meets new challenges, she and Trinity will remain committed to investing in areas that support students’ long-term success.
A lasting legacy:  
Reverend Theodore M. Hesburgh, C.S.C.

Father Hesburgh passed away on February 26, 2015, at the age of 97. A pillar of higher education, he was also an advocate for human rights and a citizen of the world.

He served four popes and held 16 presidential appointments, advancing causes he cared about: civil rights, atomic energy, student activism, economic development and immigration reform. He received 150 honorary degrees, the most ever awarded to one person. Perhaps he will be most remembered as the president of the University of Notre Dame, where he served from 1952 to 1987.

A recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation’s highest civilian honor, he also received the Congressional Gold Medal for “his outstanding and enduring contributions to civil rights, higher education, the Catholic Church, the nation, and the global community.”
About the TIAA Institute

The TIAA Institute helps advance the ways individuals and institutions plan for financial security and organizational effectiveness. The Institute conducts in-depth research, provides access to a network of thought leaders and enables those it serves to anticipate trends, plan future strategies and maximize opportunities for success. For more information, please visit us at TIAAinstitute.org.

About TIAA

TIAA (TIAA.org) is a unique financial partner. With an award-winning track record for consistent investment performance, TIAA is the leading provider of financial services in the academic, research, medical, cultural and government fields. TIAA has $854 billion in assets under management (as of 12/31/2015) and offers a wide range of financial solutions, including investing, banking, advice and guidance, and retirement services.

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