



July 6, 2026

Dear Members of the Trocaire College Community,

I am writing to share important news regarding the future leadership of Trocaire College. The Board of Trustees will shortly announce the launch of a nationwide search for our seventh president, following Bassam M. Deeb, Ph.D., intent to retire.

After 14 years of exceptional leadership, Bassam has shared his intention to step down once a successor is in place. He is fully committed to serving actively in his role throughout this transition. Upon his retirement, he will conclude his tenure as the longest-serving higher education president in Western New York. As he has assured the Board, it remains "business as usual" at Trocaire, and our collective focus stays squarely on our students and our Mercy mission.

To guide us through this vital process, the Board has engaged DSG Storbeck, a premier national executive search firm. The search team will be led by Christopher Lee, Ph.D., who will be reaching out to the campus community during the month of July to gather input for developing the position profile.

The presidential search committee will be chaired by Mr. Preston Lewellen, our Board Vice Chair. The Board is committed to a thorough, inclusive, and efficient search process, and Preston will keep the campus community regularly updated as key milestones are reached.

Since 2012, Bassam has led Trocaire with deep passion, expanding our footprint and solidifying our status as a premier opportunity college in the region. We will have ample opportunities to celebrate his service to the College at the appropriate time.

Thank you for your continued dedication to Trocaire and to the success of our students.

With gratitude,

Sean M. Willett
Chair, Board of Trustees

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