

### Remembrance of Jay McGowan

Last week Louisville lost a leading moral voice for the transformative power of education. Dr. Joseph McGowan, President of Bellarmine University, passed away unexpectedly, and he leaves a big hole in so many of our lives and work.

Jay McGowan came to Louisville in 1990, bringing big hopes and ambition to what many of us remember as a modest, even nondescript commuter college. Over 26 years in Louisville, Jay put Bellarmine well on its way toward achieving Bellarmine's own Vision 2020 of becoming what he sometimes called "the Notre Dame of the South." He was instrumental in the formation of Louisville's 55,000 Degrees as a partnership of higher education, business, public education and community leaders all focused on the common goal of education as the pathway to a larger life and prosperity.

Closer to home, Jay and Dr. Hargens together sponsored the JCPS Bellarmine Literacy Project, in which faculty in 39 of our highest need elementary schools work closely with Bellarmine faculty to build our capacity to teach reading, about which our board heard only two weeks ago.

At President McGowan's funeral yesterday, one of his friends remembered what made him special as an educator: "[H]e always remembered that each student was an individual with a first and last name, who had entrusted their thoughts and mind to him."

As we take our customary moment of silence, may we reflect on this example and strive to bring the same respect to our students and to each other.