

About Sister Vicki Schwartz SL Interim President

Throughout her life, Sister Vicki Schwartz SL has been involved with Loretto schools as a student, teacher, administrator and trustee. These experiences, along with her background in fundraising and leadership, make her well suited for the role of Interim President of St. Mary's Academy.

Sister Vicki's education is all Loretto. Born and raised in St. Louis, Sister Vicki attended a parish grade school staffed by the Sisters of Loretto, then attended SMA's sister school Nerinx Hall High School, and graduated from Webster College with a degree in elementary education and English.

After four years of teaching English and religion at a Loretto school in Kansas City, Sister Vicki moved to El Paso in 1967 for a 20-year career at Loretto Academy. She spent several summers earning a Master's degree in English at St. Louis University. After serving as a high school teacher and department head and earning her Texas School Administrators Certification, Sister Vicki was appointed high school principal. In that role, she and the lower and middle school principals functioned as a collaborative leadership team for the Academy. Her commitment to Loretto Academy has continued through many years of service on its Board of Trustees.

After 24 years of educating young people, Sister Vicki turned her attention to her own education. She moved to Berkeley, California, graduating with a Master of Theological Studies degree from the Franciscan School of Theology at the Graduate Theological Union in 1987. She shared her learning with Loretto through committee work related to membership and the constitutions of the community.

Sister Vicki's enthusiasm for young people, this time at-risk teens, took her to Huckleberry Youth Programs in San Francisco, first as Human Resources Director and later as Director of Development. Living in the Bay Area and being passionate about the water, she took up water aerobics and watercolor painting and considers swimming with dolphins and humpback whales high points of her life. She loves animals, especially her California cats, Socrates and Sluggo who enjoy Denver's sunshine.

While working in California, Sister Vicki also served on Loretto's Executive Committee for nine years with the last three as Vice-President. With this leadership role, she moved to Denver in 2012 and has served on the St. Mary's Academy Board of Trustees from 2013 to the present. While serving as Interim President, she will continue her committee and human resources work within the Loretto Community.

Sister Vicki is excited to again work in a Loretto school. She is struck by the strong sense of community and the friendly welcome she receives from students every time she walks the halls. She has enjoyed getting to know the St. Mary's Academy teachers and is impressed with their strong commitment to the students and thoughtful approach to the important roles they play in their lives.