



Washington D.C. Presidential Alumni Reception

Library of Congress- Madison Hall

June 5, 2012

6-8 p.m.

Robert L. Niehoff, S.J. - Talking Points (5 minute update)

- Thanks Doreen, and I'd also like to thank our hosts again and welcome everyone...
 - Welcome Carroll alumni and sponsors
 - I am especially pleased to welcome staff and members of our Ohio Congressional delegation.
- **Commencement 2012**
 - For alumni in the room that know what a picture-perfect commencement on the Quad is all about, we had 953 graduates a few weeks ago on a beautiful Sunday afternoon.
 - Chuck Geschke from Adobe Systems was our distinguished Commencement speaker. You may not have known that he taught mathematics at Carroll before starting Adobe. Chuck has been a friend to JCU and the Jesuits for many years and had inspiring stories to share with our graduates.
- **Excellence in Jesuit Education**
 - Academic excellence and rigor:
 - ❖ Doreen mentioned our rankings, including our top ten position in U.S. News...
I'll further emphasize that we are **#1 in undergraduate teaching**, and **#4 in overall value** in the Midwest.
 - ❖ So how talented are our today's Carroll graduates? Let me tell you this story about what David Gregory said from NBC's *Meet the Press*...

- **David Gregory quote:** *“I don’t know what John Carroll is doing, but it’s working... they send me these amazing students to work at Meet the Press every year, and we keep hiring them for full-time positions.”*

As you know about Carroll, our Jesuit education develops the whole person—mind, body, and spirit. We’re creating leaders that can think critically... Leaders that serve ethically and with integrity, just like Tim Russert from the Class of 1972.

- ❖ So our graduates are people of character, and for many of them, starting their Carroll education was a about access:

It’s critical for our mission, and I think for American society, to attract and educate bright students—no matter their socio-economic background.

- Usually the first *life-changing experience* for our students is receiving the financial support they need to come to JCU.
- We are taking steps to both contain costs and help make it easier for families to pay for college.
 - Last year, we awarded more than **\$40 million** in scholarships and financial aid. In fact, it’s nearly **1/3** of our annual operating budget. In addition, JCU has set a goal to raise at least \$35 million in scholarships to help students achieve the dream of a Carroll education.
- We appreciate Congress's continuing *investment* in federal student aid programs, namely the Pell grant, which complements the private investment many of you have made to our future workforce.
- Service and the Student Experience
 - I’m also pleased to share with you how much service to others has grown, particularly in the last 5 years.
 - We were recognized again this year on President Obama’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll.

- Through Jesuit education, we know that service helps give our students the values-based leadership skills they need to be ethical decision makers in the future—and an understanding of how their decisions will affect others in the world.
- We're now at a point where Northeast Ohio food banks, health clinics, school districts, and others tell us they can't do what they do without the support of our students.

This spring, we partnered with 8 other Jesuit institutions for a community day of service—over 500 volunteers helped at more than 20 Cleveland-based service sites!

- **Calls to Action**

- I know our alumni are always asking about how they can help, so I wanted to focus your attention in a few areas:
 - Help us recruit students! Join our Alumni in Admissions program.
 - Support student scholarships by giving to the Carroll Fund!
 - ❖ Last year, alumni and friends donated \$23.5 million to Carroll, which was so helpful and appreciated.
 - ❖ This helps our students and our institution in many ways—and it helps you. By increasing our alumni giving participation rate, it increases our rankings which helps us secure grant money and other resources... allowing us to serve students better and increase the stature of your alma mater.
 - ❖ Help us hire students! Opportunities for our graduates for internships, full-time jobs, or other learning opportunities are always appreciated.

Closing thoughts and blessings