

The Presidency of Cynthia A. Zane, Ed.D.

JOANN FALLETTA, BUFFALO PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA, MUSIC DIRECTOR

“Cynthia Zane has been a great leader for Hilbert College and wonderful member of our community. She and her husband Stephen have been great supporters of the BPO and Cynthia’s service on the BPO’s Board of Trustees was outstanding. She was responsible for presenting the BPO on the campus and giving us important reach into Buffalo’s southtowns. Once she retires, we will miss her and wish her the best of happiness!”

ROBERT D. GIOIA, PRESIDENT, THE JOHN R. OISHEI FOUNDATION

“When Cynthia Zane became the third President of Hilbert in July, 2006, she brought incredible energy, vision and drive to her new role. During her tenure, Hilbert expanded its educational offerings to ensure that they are relevant to today’s world and to today’s students. Cynthia played a critical role in strengthening and formalizing the WNY Higher Education Consortium, a unique collaboration of both private and public colleges and universities in our region who work together and finds ways to support each other even as fierce competitors. Her efforts helped create a robust collaborative – one that continues to be a model for the rest of the country and that has allowed for shared advocacy, creative programming and innovative efforts such as the creation of a Women’s Leadership Institute which prepares women for senior executive positions in higher education. As a dynamic leader, Cynthia has been a tireless booster for Hilbert and WNY. She is often seen out in the community, supporting other causes, colleagues and generally being her enthusiastic self. We all wish Cynthia well on her retirement. She will be deeply missed!”

Hilbert College Accomplishments 2006-2017

- Completed three inclusive strategic planning processes resulting in *Destination 2012*, *Vision 2017*, and *New Horizons 2020*.
- Navigated a successful reaccreditation process by the Middle States Commission for Higher Education.
- Development of a Campus Master Plan.
- Initiated a charter change amendment process to offer the first graduate degrees. Oversaw the development and implementation of two master’s level programs (MPA, MSCJA).
- Expanded undergraduate academic portfolio with restructured business programs, and addition of cybersecurity and sports industry management.
- During her tenure, enrollment grew to its highest level and the college’s endowment has increased by 55%.

- Enhanced the shared governance model including the development of a staff senate as well as staff and faculty appointments to Trustee Committees.
- Initiated a Center for Excellence in Learning.
- Completion of a \$3.5 million capital campaign, including two new science labs and the renovation of an academic building.
- During her presidency, she led the construction of a 155-bed residence hall, Trinity Hall.
- Successful submission and implementation of a Title III grant focused on the fostering the success of at-risk students, which led to the development of the Hilbert Blueprint.
- Retention rate has improved for all students and peaked at 77% for the Fall 2014 cohort. Retention rate for student-athletes is currently 88%.
- Designed and implemented an integrated enrollment management model.
- Worked with a team of women leaders in the WNY Higher Education Consortium to design and implement a Women's Leadership Institute.