



Carol McTiernan
Distinguished Lasallian – Staff
2024-2025

When I first learned about the nomination process for the Distinguished Lasallian Award for an outstanding Staff member, I knew I didn't have to go any further than the Center for Career Development's very own Carol McTiernan. With the 5 points of the Lasallian Star and the values each represents as a guide, I will share why Carol deserves this award:

The first point of the star takes into consideration "Excellence in Education & Engagement for the Well-Being of Others, and in particular being dedicated to enhancing the well-being of others, especially those who are most in need." Carol has been working at Manhattan for 18 years and while working full-time obtained her Bachelor of Science Degree in 2016 achieving membership in the Epsilon Sigma Pi Honor Society. As the Office Manager for the Center for Career Development (or the CCD as we call it), Carol has demonstrated a commitment to quality and excellence in her work, as well as a generosity of spirit in sharing from her base of institutional knowledge. She consistently goes the extra mile to help all members of our community. I have found Carol an invaluable resource and source of support as I learned about the department and its workings. I quickly discovered that Carol is not only caring, but has demonstrated creativity and innovative thinking that she has applied to the new scenarios we have handled as a team since. She is a dedicated, hard worker who genuinely is concerned about her co-workers needs and worries if she thinks they may be overextending themselves, even as she selflessly extends herself on behalf of the team. Notably she partnered with me in coordinating the 2025 Spring Career Fair -- I couldn't have asked for a better partner in the process as we figured things out together! It's evident she has been the "glue" and the "heart" that kept this office going during the tough times that preceded my arrival. She is a true gem and we at the CCD are grateful for her.

The second point on the Lasallian Star considered for this award is Respect for Human Dignity. As a new member of the Manhattan community, I realized immediately that when I travel around campus with Carol, it seems everyone on campus knows her and respects her. Because of her respect for the human dignity of others, she has developed a network of human connections here at the University. In these spontaneous interactions, I see people view Carol with affection because she displays genuine concern for how they are doing, how their families are doing, and she expresses gratitude for how other staff members contribute with their work. I have seen her help console a recently widowed worker, heard how someone in the community would share news of a death in their family with her that they might not share with others. When people are vulnerable they gravitate to Carol. When we got news that a student lost everything in a house fire, I knew I could ask Carol to source items to donate to the student from supplies we had on hand. Carol makes students, employers, and alumni feel welcome and respected when they visit our suite or events we host.

Carol's faith is at the core of who she is and how she expresses herself through her work and relationships. She and I recently sat together for the memorial service for Pope Francis and prior to that we also attended the Ash Wednesday Service and I noted that after she got her ashes she rushed back to our office to give one of our student workers a chance to come get their ashes. Again, she is always thinking of others. As we have gone through the process of screening resumes and candidates to fill the position openings we had in our department, I know Carol prayed, as I did, that we would find just the right people to create a harmonious and effective team. Carol's Faith is at her core, but she definitely puts "feet on her prayers" so that they are supported with action. During Lasallian Week, I had to present a career workshop in conflict with the timing for the Prayer Tree ceremony. I created a draft for a CCD prayer and asked Carol and our new career counselor, Olivia Crowley, who were the team members present that day, to add anything they wanted to the draft. Sure enough, Carol made sure it was printed beautifully on card stock and hung on a branch – which she happily showed me when I finished my workshop.

Carol is dependable and trustworthy without question. Her ethics and integrity are part of her being. She has been entrusted with our budget processes and we can rest easy knowing she will keep accurate records and alert us if anything seems off when a vendor submits an invoice. She can be trusted with confidential and sensitive information.

I have learned that Carol is a proponent of all people being treated fairly. Additionally, in our office she is in charge of managing our "Suit Up" program where students can borrow clothing from our office to wear for interviews -- and she has done an excellent job of making students feel good about the process when they may be feeling vulnerable that they are not in a financial position to buy their own professional attire. Most recently I was introduced to the importance of the Lenten Rice Bowl collection as a tradition here, as Carol is enthusiastic about how these collections help disadvantaged and marginalized people in the world. On this past Lasallian Day of Service, Carol, along with one of our Peer Career Advisors, not only helped me transport two carts-full of donations from our suite to the collection site downstairs, but then she helped cart all the donations collected that day to the Campus Ministry Office.

Carol McTiernan is a star staff member that well represents our Lasallian values and that is why she truly deserves to receive the 2025 Distinguished Lasallian Award!

Citation prepared and read by: Julie Anna Alvarez Rivera, Director, Center for Career Development