

# MERCYHURST COLLEGE

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## ***Mercyhurst announces gift of \$100,000 to City of Erie***

ERIE, PA – September 21, 2011 Mercyhurst College announced today that it will make a voluntary contribution of \$100,000 to the City of Erie, marking the fifth year the college has stepped forward to help the city meet its fiscal needs.

In 2007, Mercyhurst agreed to pay the city \$500,000 in three annual installments. In the throes of a nationwide economic crisis in 2010, the college limited its gift to \$75,000, believing that its financial resources were most needed to enhance scholarships for students impacted by the economic downturn.

“Mercyhurst is proud to be a partner with the City of Erie and we strive each day in myriad ways – athletic events, performances, community service – to be a community asset and a good neighbor,” said Mercyhurst President Dr. Tom Gamble. “This gift builds upon our strong relationship with the city and further affirms that our futures are intertwined.”

Erie Mayor Joseph Sinnott said, “The college’s willingness to support the city as we provide both police and fire protection to the growing Mercyhurst community is significant. As with other contributions such as this, the funds will serve to provide much needed equipment for our public safety departments. Mercyhurst has a longstanding tradition of being a good community partner. We appreciate their positive influence in our community.”

Gamble said that the current economic climate remains tenuous, particularly in light of federal and state budget cuts to education, and that these unique times challenge cities and nonprofits alike to work together for the greater good.

“Even though the City of Erie is burdened by having a high proportion of property that is tax exempt, it nonetheless paves and plows the roads on which our students and employees drive and sends police and fire emergency equipment to campus whenever we call. We are grateful for the city’s support,” Gamble said. “We believe in what Mayor Sinnott and City Council are trying to do to avoid distressed city status and, so, when economic conditions allow it, Mercyhurst wants to help.

“That being said, we also strongly believe that the legislation that excludes nonprofits from paying taxes is sound social policy that has allowed a large and vibrant charitable sector to arise, taking some burden off of government to provide educational, medical, social and other services.”

In addition to financial support, Gamble emphasized that Mercyhurst will continue to seek ways to serve the community through collaborative projects, such as those impacting public safety, culture and the arts, community revitalization and poverty.

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