

Dr. Richanne C. Mankey



Dr. Richanne C. Mankey's career as a leader in independent higher education spans three decades. In January 2016 she became the nineteenth and first female President of Defiance College. Prior, she served in three vice presidencies at two institutions, Daemen College and Ohio Northern University. In six years as president, she has turned challenges into opportunities by inspiring constituent groups to work together on long-term sustainability.

In 2020, Defiance College had the largest new student class since 2015. The class of 2019 boasts a placement rate of 96.8%. Ensuring that work is student-focused and that the appropriate tools are in place to meet administrative expectations is an important component of her early efforts. She has taken an active role in the Defiance community and currently leads part of its strategic planning efforts.

The Defiance College members of the entering class of 2020 were the inaugural participants in a new program, **Jacket Journey**. **Jacket Journey** undergirds career preparation with Liberal Arts-based learning. It was a program conceptualized to address issues related to workforce development. **Jacket Journey** is unique in that it is a required program that carries academic credit over the entire four-year career of an undergraduate student. It is housed in a newly created Institute for Career Readiness and Lifelong Learning.

She currently serves on the NCAA President's Council for Division III. In 2019 she was selected a trustee for the Regional Growth Partnership based in Toledo, Ohio. Locally, she is a trustee for the ProMedica Defiance Regional Hospital.

In the Western New York region she was a founding member of the *Women's Leadership Institute (WLI)* through the Western New York Consortium for Higher Education in 2011. Dr. Mankey has also been selected to participate in international, national and regional discussions about leadership and/or women in higher education.

In June 2017 she was awarded the *Distinguished Alumna Award* from Ohio Northern University. She received the *Women of Influence for Nonprofit Leadership* award, the *Bernice Poss* award in 2014 that is given annually to a woman in higher education who exemplifies leadership, professionalism, concern for others, and steady advocacy of women; she was selected as one of five *Athena Award* finalists in Buffalo in 2013.

Dr. Mankey graduated cum laude in Psychology from Ohio Northern University (Ohio); received her master's degree in Social Agency Counseling from the University of Dayton (Ohio); and earned her doctorate in Adult Education from Teachers College, Columbia University (New York, New York).
