

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**SHIMER COLLEGE NAMES
CHICAGO FUNDRAISER/ADMINISTRATOR AS INTERIM PRESIDENT**

Ronald O. Champagne, a prominent Chicago leader in higher education, has been named as the Interim President of Shimer College in Chicago. Dr. Champagne is President Emeritus of Saint Xavier University in Chicago where he served from 1982 to 1994, leading a ten-year program of expansion that in 1992 culminated in the institution's transformation from a college to a university. Champagne has long been familiar with Shimer College and its distinctive educational mission, having served as a key player in negotiations between Shimer and Roosevelt University in the 1990s, when Champagne was Vice President of Development at Roosevelt. Champagne also recently held a position as Senior Vice President of Development at the Alzheimer's Foundation in Chicago.

According to Chris Nelson, President of St. John's College in Annapolis, Maryland, and Acting Chair of the Board of Shimer College, "Ron Champagne brings an extraordinary wealth of experience to this position. He has known Shimer and its leadership for nearly two decades. He has extensive presidential and fundraising experience, and knows Chicago well, having made it his home for years. We are incredibly fortunate to have a person of this caliber for our president, while we undertake the process of searching for a permanent president. This should be an energizing year for the college."

Champagne is indeed a very fortunate choice for tiny Shimer College, one of a handful of colleges whose core liberal arts curriculum is built around the Great Books legacy of Robert Maynard Hutchins at University of Chicago. Recently, under the leadership of departing President William C. Rice, Shimer made a dramatic move in location, establishing itself as an independent college operating on the campus of the Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago. When Rice accepted a call to Washington, D.C. to head the Division of Education Programs at the National Endowment for the Humanities, Champagne appeared as the clear choice to lead the College through the transition.

Champagne earned his M.A. and Ph.D. from Fordham University, New York, in 1973 after receiving his M.A. from Catholic University, Washington D.C., and his B.A. from Duquesne University in Pittsburgh. Champagne has served as Vice President for Academic Affairs at Salem College in Salem, West Virginia; as Professor of Mathematics at Saint Xavier University and Salem College; and as Professor of Philosophy of Science at Roosevelt University.

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