

Dr. William P. Garvey

A BRIEF BIOGRAPHY

Dr. William P. Garvey is the President at the Jefferson Educational Society, Erie's think tank for community progress.

The Jefferson Educational Society is a non-profit 501 (3) (c) adult education institution recently founded to promote civic enlightenment, and community progress for the Erie Region through the study, research, discussion, of those ideas and events that have influenced the human condition. The Jefferson Educational Society will offer non-degree courses, seminars, and lectures which explain the central ideas have formed the past, assist in exploring the present, and offer guidance in enhancing the civic future of the Erie Region.

Dr. Garvey was the ninth president of Mercyhurst College. During his early years at Mercyhurst he was chairman of its social sciences and education departments. In 1969, Dr. Garvey was named dean of the college and vice president of academic services. He took a one-year leave of absence from Mercyhurst in 1977 to serve as the first director of administration for Erie County Government. He returned to the college as director of Mercyhurst's first graduate program in criminal justice.

Dr. Garvey was elected president of Mercyhurst in July 1980, and under his leadership the college strengthened its commitment to academic distinction and completed a more than \$45 million program of new buildings and campus renovations. Dr. Garvey was also responsible for opening a 78 acre branch campus in North East in 1991 that enrolled 1,000 students in 2006-07.

The Jefferson Educational Society President has served on numerous civic boards, including the Erie Port authority and the Hamot Health Foundation. He chaired the 1995 Greater Erie Bicentennial Commission which was responsible for erecting Erie's Bicentennial Tower, was the 1999 honorary chairman of the George Washington Bicentennial and the Multiple Sclerosis Walk, and the chairman of the Erie Red Cross Campaign in 2000. In addition, he was a consultant of the Mayor's Office for Erie Millennium Celebration and Erie's Promise.

He has been president of the Erie Rotary Club, Erie Historical Museum, the Erie branch of the Pennsylvania Economy League, Northwest Pennsylvania Governor's Justice Commission, Association of Mercy Colleges and the Foundation for Independent Colleges of Pennsylvania.

Dr. Garvey received the Liberty Bell Award from the Erie County Bar Association, the Gannon University Outstanding Alumni Award, the Distinguished Career Award from the Sales and Marketing Club of Erie, the Erie Chamber of Commerce Award for Distinguished Civic Service, the Louis J. Tullio Community Service Award, and the Erie County Historical Society's Award for Outstanding Service to local history. He was named a Distinguished Pennsylvanian by the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce, a Knight of St. Patrick in 1995 and that same year as one of the 100 most influential Irish Americans.

He is also a recipient of the Distinguished Citizen Award from the French Creek Council of the Boys Scouts of America, the Alex D. Tocqueville Society Award from the United Way of Erie County, the Outstanding Community Leadership Award from the Dr. Gertrude Barber Center and the Celebration of Life and Service Award from the Myasthenia Gravis Association of Western Pennsylvania in recognition of his humanitarianism through volunteerism and his commitment to serving the citizen of Erie.

He was inducted in the Metropolitan Erie chapter of the Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame in 1998; received the John L. Robison Humanitarian Award from the Boys and Girls Club of Erie in 1999; inducted into the Millcreek Hall of Fame in 2000; and was awarded the Archbishop Gannon Medal of Distinction in 2001 for his leadership of higher education and the Erie community.

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