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LA SALLE PREP NAMES NEXT PRESIDENT

As of July 1, John Huelskamp will be the fifth leader of the Catholic high school in Milwaukie

MILWAUKIE- La Salle Catholic College Preparatory will welcome a new President on July 1, 2022. John Huelskamp has accepted the position from the school's Board of Trustees to serve as the fifth president to lead La Salle since the Christian Brothers opened the school in 1966. The school currently enrolls 600 students on its 34-acre campus on Southeast Fuller Road. Huelskamp will fill the position being vacated by Andrew Kuffner, who is stepping down from the position after 26 years of service to La Salle.

Huelskamp, a parishioner of St. Juan Diego Parish in Northwest Portland, comes to La Salle with 28 years of experience in education, including six years as the founding principal of De La Salle North Catholic High School in Portland, and four years as director of campus ministry at Valley Catholic High School in Beaverton. For the last 11 years, he has served as the principal of Sunset High School, a public school of more than 2,000 students in Portland.

"I am looking forward to joining the gifted and dedicated staff as well as the larger La Salle community as we collectively author the next chapter in La Salle Prep's story," Huelskamp told the Board of Trustees after accepting the job. "The strong sense of community, faith, and service hold great appeal."

The Board of Trustees and the Search Committee – comprised of trustees, alumni, educators, and La Salle faculty and staff – were impressed not only with Huelskamp's experience and credentials, but more importantly, the feedback they received from colleagues, parents, and others who know him well.

"We have hired a leader who is well respected in his field, known in the broader Portland community, and has a reputation for putting students first," said Shelley Larkins, chair of the Board of Trustees. "We were also impressed with the deep affection he has for the Lasallian educational mission and approach."

St. John Baptist de La Salle, founder of Lasallian schools more than 300 years ago, "had it right from the outset," said Huelskamp. "You've got to touch the heart before you can touch the mind."

While principal at Sunset High School, Huelskamp honed many of the skills he can draw upon as La Salle's new leader. For example, he helped secure more than \$6 million in donations and grants for programs, scholarships, equipment, and upgrades to the school. He led a decade-long effort to increase the graduation rate of Latino students from 52% to 87%. He expanded the number of classes in computer science, engineering, robotics, business, and graphic design, and more than tripled participation in the school's International Baccalaureate program.

"We are confident," said Larkins, "that Mr. Huelskamp will build upon the great work of La Salle leaders before him and lead us to promising days ahead."