

Marian College became Marian University on June 27, with a campus-wide celebration including Indianapolis, Indiana mayor. Marian University is a Catholic and Franciscan university sponsored by the Sisters of St. Francis, Oldenburg.

On June 27 at 10 a.m., Marian College officially became Marian University. The Catholic, liberal arts college has experienced dramatic enrollment and fundraising growth since [Daniel J. Elsener](#) became president in 2001. Indianapolis mayor Gregory A. Ballard joined college officials at the main entrance of the Marian College campus to help celebrate the college's transformation.

The name change is the most significant event for the college since it moved to Indianapolis in 1937. Mayor Ballard's remarks discussed the institution's important role as a great Catholic institution in Indianapolis; Marian University gives its graduates an education illumined by faith. Many of these graduates remain in Indianapolis, enriching the city with their commitment to service and conviction to be a powerful force for good in society.

President Elsener's remarks also included details about a historic, six-figure gift to the college in honor of its transition to university status.

Others who spoke at the event included: Sr. Barbara Piller, OSF '71, congregational minister for the Sisters of St. Francis, Oldenburg (the religious order is the university's sponsor); D. Anthony Watt '69, chairman of the Marian College Board of Trustees; and William P. Eckman '74, Marian College trustee and incoming board chairman.

The name change celebration follows the historic and final [State of the College Address](#) by President Elsener.

Marian University Indianapolis Receives Historic \$6 Million Gift

On June 23, 2009, Marian University Indianapolis received a historic \$6 million gift from a former trustee. The amount of the gift—given as a \$1 million check and a 10-year pledge of \$500,000 annually—represents the single largest gift from an individual ever made to the university. “We are, of course, grateful for this gift, which will do much to move the university’s comprehensive fundraising effort to new heights,” said Marian University president Daniel J. Elsener. Including this gift, the university has raised over \$55 million toward its \$68.2 million goal.

University leaders also say the gift is significant because the donor, a former trustee and counselor to the college during some of its most difficult years, saw the recent progress and was moved to support its continued growth. “We think it’s important to understand that this person, who didn’t experience the university in the same way that our students and graduates do, feels compelled to endorse Marian University’s educational approach,” Elsener continued. “Clearly our Franciscan values and commitment to a liberal arts education are valued by others, and needed by our world.” Elsener noted that the leadership provided by the Board of Trustees, and the knowledgeable and talented faculty and staff were instrumental in making this gift possible.

The donor, who wishes to remain anonymous, sent the gift to honor the institution’s official transformation to Marian University on June 27. How the university will use the gift will be determined in the coming weeks, and an announcement will be made at a later date.

[Building a Great Catholic University](#)

On October 25, 2007, before an audience of nearly 800 guests, Marian College president Daniel J. Elsener announced that Marian College will become a university. The announcement was part of the college's annual scholarship fundraiser and celebration of its 70th year in Indianapolis. "Marian College has dramatically evolved over the past 70 years, and becoming a great Catholic university in the heart of one of America's greatest cities is the next logical step," said Marian College president Daniel J. Elsener. On May 9, 2008, the Marian College Board of Trustees approved a resolution stating that the official date of the renaming of the institution will be July 1, 2009.

About Marian University

[Marian University](#) is the only Catholic liberal arts university in central Indiana. It is a private, co-educational school offering classes to both traditional and non-traditional students. Located two miles north of downtown Indianapolis, Marian University is a Catholic college dedicated to excellent teaching and learning in the Franciscan and liberal arts traditions. It is sponsored by the Sisters of St. Francis, Oldenburg, Indiana.

Andrea L. Fagan • Marian College
Director of Marketing Communications
3200 Cold Spring Road • Indianapolis, IN 46222
O: 317.955.6213 F: 317.955.6431
afagan@marian.edu • www.marian.edu

