

IMPACTING THE FUTURE

Patricia Garrity
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Linda Brodeur is challenging the leaders of tomorrow
to leave the world a better place

Alumni PROFILE

Linda Brodeur, Class of 1982 and 2001G
B.S. Chemistry and Master of Education
President of Bishop Guertin High School, Nashua, N.H.



“Rivier is a community, first and foremost.”

Named in honor of Bishop Georges-Albert Guertin, third bishop of Manchester, Bishop Guertin High School was opened in 1963 by the Brothers of the Sacred Heart to serve the needs of young men in the Nashua area. In 1992, the school became a co-educational institution.

Photos by Jodie Andruskevich

From teacher to principal and now president, Linda Brodeur has found her passion as an educational leader at Bishop Guertin High School in Nashua, New Hampshire.

The guidance of mentors

Brodeur earned her Chemistry degree at Rivier and worked as a chemist for a short time. Although she was well prepared for the job, she felt unfulfilled. After a bit of soul searching, she decided to pursue a career in education and has never regretted her decision. “Not only was I well prepared for the content,” says Brodeur. “I realized that I was well prepared for the delivery. The professors I had at Rivier were tremendous role models for good teaching.”

Her Rivier professors taught her that a teacher can be kind and have high standards. In particular, Sister Jeanne Perreault, pm was a strong role model. She taught Brodeur that those “wow” moments in a classroom, happen when the students know that the teacher is creative, passionate, and knowledgeable—about both her students and the content.

When Brodeur returned to Rivier to earn her master’s degree in Education, she met then Chair of the Division of Education Dr. Charles Mitsakos, a fabulous advisor and mentor to her as she struggled with the decision to step out of the classroom and into administration. She says, “I cannot possibly list the many concepts, ideas, and practical strategies that he taught me—most I still use now. His practical advice, his ability to see humor in things—knowing what is and isn’t important, and his open door policy are three strategies that I try to model.”

Blazing a path

Her experience in turn influenced both of her daughters who also attended the University and met their future husbands on the Rivier campus. Brodeur credits Rivier with further strengthening the good character, integrity, and ethics she instilled in her children.

“Rivier is a community, first and foremost. If you are looking for a school where you will be known, where you will be challenged, where you will be prepared, where you will have many opportunities to engage in the community, where you will likely have some of the best teachers in the area, then go ahead and submit an application. You will find you are more than you ever thought you could be.”

Brodeur was recently appointed by the Brothers of the Sacred Heart to serve as Bishop Guertin’s first lay president; she is also the first female president to be named by the Brothers in the United States and is honored and humbled to serve in this capacity. She serves on diocesan panels and teaches in the Diocese of Manchester lay formation program, is a member of the Nashua Community College Teacher Advisory Committee, the nationwide National Merit Advisory Board, the New Hampshire Interscholastic Athletic Association (NHIAA) strategic planning board, and has recently been appointed to the NHIAA Council.

Brodeur finds it very rewarding to mentor aspiring young teachers and is always ready and willing to share her experience and ideas with the next generation of engaged classroom leaders. “Some of the greatest moments for me as a principal were talking about teaching with passionate, creative, and skillful teachers.”



President Linda Brodeur on the Bishop Guertin campus.

A personal challenge

Rivier’s mission of ‘transforming hearts and minds to serve the world’ has personal significance for Brodeur. “As a teacher, as a principal, and as a high school president, I take very seriously the notion that I am directly impacting the future. These students are going to be the leaders of tomorrow and will be making decisions that impact me, my children, and now my grandchild.”

Last year at Bishop Guertin’s graduation, she told seniors that “things just got personal” because they will be the teachers, the doctors, the lawyers, and the politicians for her new grandson. “I challenged them to leave the world a better place than they found it—for me, for them, and for my grandson.” ■