

President Isiaah Crawford - Inauguration

- *March 24, 2017*

- *Stephen V. Sundborg, S.J.*

President Isiaah Crawford, as a university president I welcome you into the company of men and women called to and accepting the challenge of the leadership of our colleges and universities. We, your fellow presidents, commit and offer to you our support, our experience, and our collegueship. We welcome from you your vision, your proven academic leadership, your friendship, and your enriching experience of this great University of Puget Sound.

Many today, especially corporate leaders, say that the toughest job in America is to be a university president. To serve so many constituencies all at once, to adapt to the rapidly changing reality of higher education, to inspire a university community with vision and mission, to assure financial stability, to know and relate warmly with students, alumni and sports fans, to be an educator, a spokesperson and a fundraiser, to receive responsibility trustingly from a board of trustees, and shared governance particularly with faculty, to partner with and serve a civic and business community, and to do all of this with authority, with firmness of purpose with graciousness and charm, and to do so cooperatively and enthusiastically, makes being a university president the toughest job in America. I know you well, have so enjoyed knowing you personally and professionally these many years in your growing university leadership, that I know for sure that you are up to the job, are exceedingly well prepared for it and welcome it generously.

If the job which you have accepted and welcome is tough, the rewards and satisfactions are even stronger. Take it from the current longest-serving president of a higher education institution of our State that the deepest joys, the most profound meaningfulness, the greatest growth of personal potential and discovery of new gifts, the largest satisfaction from generous service to others, and the most long-lasting and warmest relationships are all yours as you accept and live out your presidency of the University of Puget Sound.

As a president of one independent university I welcome you especially to the close collegueship of the presidents of the Independent Colleges of Washington; as a Catholic priest and a Jesuit I bless you within the tradition of which you are proud and from which come, and as your friend I take joy in your inauguration this day, and look forward with other presidents to our service together in the years to come. Welcome, President Isiaah Crawford, to the toughest and the best job in America.