

COPY OF NEWS RELEASE FOR DISTRIBUTION
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Jacqueline Grennan, President of Webster College since 1965, announced today her intention to resign as president. While not setting an effective date for her resignation, Miss Grennan indicated that she plans to be married in the near future. No successor for the presidency of the college has been chosen.

Miss Grennan, forty-two, will be married to Mr. Paul J. Wexler, forty-nine, a New York business executive. Mr. Wexler is a widower and father of two children. He lives in Tenafly, New Jersey. The date and location of the wedding have not been selected

The announcement was made jointly by Miss Grennan and Mr. Sanford J. Zimmerman, Chairman of the Webster College Board of Directors.

Miss Grennan joined the college as a Sister of Loretto in 1959. She served as Vice President under Sister Francetta Barberis, S.L., who retired as President in 1965 to join the Job Corps in Washington, D.C.

During Sister Francetta's administration, the college began moving from the posture of a small Catholic Women's college to a position of increasing openness both in enrollment and philosophy. It also undertook a study of various governance patterns as possible alternatives to ownership and operation by a religious order.

On November 21, 1966, with the full support of the Sisters of Loretto, plans for a new Board of Directors were announced. The net effect of establishing the new board was to change the college into a private, independent institution. Simultaneously with the college's change, Miss Grennan announced that she had been fully dispensed from her vows as a Sister of Loretto by Catholic Church authorities.

In submitting her resignation, Miss Grennan stated:

"I have told Mr. Zimmerman and the Board of Directors of Webster College of my plans to marry. These plans make it necessary for me to offer my resignation as President of Webster College as soon as the Board of Directors can determine a suitable replacement.

"Webster College has been, is, and will continue to be the most important institutional commitment of my life. My days as an undergraduate from 1944-1948; my association with Sister Francetta Barberis during her administration from 1958-1965; and, my own years as president have been rich years for me, and I hope for the college.

"I have often stated publicly that persons and institutions must be free to grow, that neither must be owned by the other. Rather, I believe, we give the fullness of our devotion and creative energies into an institution precisely so that it may become mature with a life of its own. In recent years, every step we have taken at Webster College has been made with this conviction in mind.

"The establishment of a self-perpetuating Board of Directors responsible for the continuity of the college was a critical point in this development. The concern, insight, and imagination of these directors in working with faculty,

students, and administration in the past two years has given me great reassurance that the institution indeed now has a mature and vital life of its own. The innovative style which has become characteristic of the college is dependent on creative initiation of ideas at all levels--students, faculty, administration, and directors. I believe that this kind of vitality now permeates Webster College.

"On November 21, 1966, I announced to the college community the intention of the Sisters of Loretto to invest legal ownership of Webster College in an independent trusteeship. In that announcement I said, 'Strong parents, great progenitors are seldom possessive. They seem not to need to live through their children, fulfilled rather in the knowledge that the children can live an independent life--a life willed and generated and fostered by the parents.'

"I hope I have willed and generated and fostered during the past decade some of the vitality that is Webster College.

"We have decided to make the announcement at this time in order to allow the directors to work with the internal college community in an open search for my successor."

In accepting the resignation, Mr. Zimmerman paid tribute to Miss Grennan's past accomplishments and discussed her future involvement with the college:

"The members of the Webster Board of Directors share with educators, government people, foundations, and businessmen all over the country the knowledge that Jacqueline has emerged as a major national figure in education. Her leadership, not only of this college but of significant national educational movements affecting school programs at all levels, has been practically unparalleled in the last ten years.

"There is no question," he continued, "that the college and all of St. Louis is deeply indebted to her for her total dedication and continuing contribution. Yet, all of us realize that a viable institution cannot be the product of only one person's dreams, ambitions, and accomplishments. Since my first involvement with the college, Miss Grennan has continually stressed that the institution must grow and develop beyond her.

"In the last two years," Mr. Zimmerman continued, "she has worked diligently with the board to structure a strong administrative team and an effective pattern of faculty and student participation in governance of the college. Success in these efforts has led the college to a steadily increasing degree of independence and vitality.

"It is the intention of the board to continue Jacqueline's affiliation with the college as long as possible. She has agreed to assist in whatever way we choose as we work toward selection of a new president. We will strongly encourage her to remain related with us in some capacity beyond that time.

"We accept Jacqueline's resignation," Mr. Zimmerman concluded, "with great regret. We are deeply grateful to her for her past contributions and wish her every happiness in her marriage."