Opening Remarks for the 34th Annual Peace Studies Conference

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Good afternoon! And welcome to the 34th annual College of Saint Benedict and Saint John’s University Peace Studies Conference ... one of our longest-held and proudest academic traditions. I’d like to add a word of gratitude for Jeff Anderson and the Peace Studies and Environmental Studies Departments for co-sponsoring this event.

This gathering continues to demonstrate this community’s true dedication and commitment to the exploration of and the devotion to “peace.” We hold a commitment to peace not as a hypothetical or an ideal, but as a tangible – as an attainable – as a mandatory objective toward which each of us can be a driving force. In the last 33 years, a remarkable cadre of students, alums and respected thought leaders in the field have raised their voices in this space.

What an exceptional way to launch Inauguration week – a time to celebrate our mission traditions and look to the future!

Through the years, this conference has explored all aspects and avenues of peace. It has lit the fire of action and change in generations of students who have gone into the world pursuing peace. Thank you for being here and continuing this legacy. I look forward to what we learn from each other today. And I look forward to our continued collective pursuit of peace.

This is a transcript of a conference presentation by President Brian J. Bruess at the Thirty-Fourth Annual Peace Studies Conference which took place at the College of Saint Benedict / Saint John’s University on September 18, 2023 (Peace Studies Department, CSB+SJU, n.d.). On July 1, 2022, Dr. Bruess became the first person to serve as president of both the College of Saint Benedict and Saint John’s University, two strong, respected Catholic, Benedictine, residential liberal arts institutions with distinct but supporting missions. Before coming to CSB+SJU, Dr. Bruess served as the president of St. Norbert College.

References