

6-1-2004

Tribute to Jean Enright, delivered in June 2004

Arend D. Lubbers
Grand Valley State University

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarworks.gvsu.edu/presidential_speeches



Part of the [Archival Science Commons](#), [Education Commons](#), and the [History Commons](#)

ScholarWorks Citation

Lubbers, Arend D., "Tribute to Jean Enright, delivered in June 2004" (2004). *Presidential Speeches*. 263.
https://scholarworks.gvsu.edu/presidential_speeches/263

This Speech is brought to you for free and open access by the University Archives at ScholarWorks@GVSU. It has been accepted for inclusion in Presidential Speeches by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks@GVSU. For more information, please contact scholarworks@gvsu.edu.

Tribute to Jean Enright

Usually one comes by a named award through providing a substantial endowment or dying. I do not possess the former nor have I experienced the later. So I receive this recognition via a third route, the generosity and graciousness of you, Mr. President and I thank-you for it.

Seventeen years ago when Jean Enright and I embarked together upon our administrative adventure, foremost in my mind was keeping our Office of the President, sensitive, efficient, and informed, in an institution poised for development and growth. She could carry her public school administration experience into a position recently held by a person of long service to the institution and to me. There should be no hitches and there were none. Her gender was an extra dividend of satisfaction for me since I was continually reminded that no women sat at the President's Council table. There is irony in that misplaced satisfaction since the only need beyond her control to fulfill in all our years together was the perception that the gender requirement was met. She did the work of many, but she was only one. In the ensuing years her influence and activity contributed to a university where more often than not merit is the measure and gender is equal.

We always believed that it is better to have more work to do than people to do it. To make sure that nothing vital to fulfilling the university's mission fails and

threatens this theory of workers and work, someone must stand guard ready to act. Jean Enright became the university's minister without portfolio. She met, she persuaded, she explained, she managed, she helped, she advised, she informed, she planned. Her instruments were two chairs in an office, the telephone, committee rooms, charts, in the dining room, a table or some point of vantage where she could control what she was managing and, of course, her interpersonal skills. All were used to perform tasks necessary to the university so numerous that even she would be pressed to list them all. Objectives were always reached, and the work done, very well done. I was never disappointed and I will venture that neither is Mark.

Since this necessary work which I have mentioned is often dealing with very personal matters it is in the realm of the personal that Jean's reputation within the university takes on its special luster. Our desire for Grand Valley to be a place where people come first was natural to Jean's life view and permeated whatever she did. She cannot help caring, and caring is a good guide to successful administration. The desire to have the President's office sensitive, efficient and informed was completely met, and yet when we began together I did not anticipate how enriching the process towards those goals would be. I did not realize that in the doing how Jean would affect the university. If it is given to you to work effectively in your field you will contribute to the current and continuing professional strength of your institution. Jean has reached this high bar of achievement, perhaps the

highest that can be adequately measured. Beyond that, however, there are a few who contribute to the ethos of our institution I believe Jean is one of those. We who care for Grand Valley want it to be a place of good spirit. ~~Here~~^{HERS} is a good and special spirit which has been grafted into the ethos of our university.

Though I am pleased that the President and the Board have established this *Award for Service* to the university in my name, its meaning for me and its honor is established by her whom they have selected to be its first recipient, Jean Enright.

Jean, as you accept this award and contemplate the leisure of retirement, "Facito Aliquid Operis Ut Semper Te Diabolus Inveniat Occupatum." "Keep thee always occupied lest the devil find thee idle."

Tribute to Jean Enright

Usually one comes by a named award through providing a substantial endowment or dying. I do not possess the former nor have I experienced the later. So I receive this recognition via a third route, the generosity and graciousness of you, Mr. President and I thank-you for it.

Seventeen years ago when Jean Enright and I embarked together upon our administrative adventure, foremost in my mind was keeping our Office of the President, sensitive, efficient, and informed, in an institution poised for development and growth. She could carry her public school administration experience into a position recently held by a person of long service to the institution and to me. There should be no hitches and there were none. Her gender was an extra dividend of