

Inauguration Ceremony

PROGRAM BOOK



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with **purpose**



Inauguration Ceremony

of

Irma Becerra, Ph. D.

Marymount's Seventh President

March 28, 2019



Converse Family Fieldhouse

Marymount University

2807 North Glebe Road

Arlington, Virginia

Order of Ceremony

Opening Remarks

*Co-Chairs of the Inaugural Committee
Carmelita Treacy '60 & Susan Lacz '83*

National Anthem

*The Star Spangled Banner, Francis Scott Key
Soloist: Camille Unich Dierksheide*

Invocation

*Most Reverend Michael F. Burbidge
Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Arlington, Virginia*

Comments

*Catherine M. Patten, R.S.T.M., Ph.D.
Provincial Superior of the Eastern American Province
of the Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary*

*Most Reverend Michael F. Burbidge
Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Arlington, Virginia*

*Anthony and Nicole Fernandez
Children of President Irma Becerra*

*Edward K. Bersoff, Ph.D.
Chairman of the Marymount University
Board of Trustees*

Installation of Marymount's 7th President

Inaugural Address

President Irma Becerra, Ph. D.

The Marymount University Alma Mater

Soloist: Camille Unich Dierksheide

Benediction

Catherine M. Patten, R.S.H.M., Ph. D.

*Provincial Superior of the Eastern American Province
of the Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary*

Recessional



*Please join us for the luncheon immediately
after the ceremony*

Lower Gym of Lee Center

2807 North Glebe Road

Arlington, VA 22207



Irma Becerra, Ph.D.

President, Marymount University
Arlington, Virginia

Dr. Irma Becerra took office as the seventh president of Marymount University in Arlington, Virginia, on July 1, 2018.

Most recently the provost and chief academic officer at St. Thomas University, Dr. Becerra is known for expanding educational access for students and keenly targeting programming to meet societal needs and changing demographics. Her academic career, both as student and professional, has blended mathematics, engineering and systems thinking and processes in her studies, teaching and administrative leadership. Prior to St. Thomas, she served at Florida International University (FIU) for almost three decades, including as a tenured professor in Management Information Systems and later as Entrepreneurship Center director, vice-provost and vice-president.

A Cuban-born American, Dr. Becerra immigrated to the United States with her parents when she was an infant, living in Puerto Rico through high school. Those formative experiences ignited her mind, imbuing her with a passion for knowledge along with a deep-seated belief that “no one can take away your education.” She earned both bachelor’s and master’s degrees in electrical engineering from the University of Miami and went on to become the first woman to earn a Ph.D. in electrical engineering from FIU.

She founded FIU’s Knowledge Management Lab and led major projects as principal investigator at the National Science Foundation, NASA (Headquarters, Kennedy, Ames, and Goddard Space Flight Centers) and the Air Force Research Lab. She was also a Sloan Scholar at MIT’s Center for Information Systems Research.

Dr. Becerra has authored four books and numerous journal articles in the areas of knowledge management and business intelligence. Her original research has also spanned such areas as enterprise systems, disaster management and IT entrepreneurship, making her a sought-after speaker and presenter both in the U.S. and internationally.

An educator who began her career in the private sector and the holder of four patents and copyrights, Dr. Becerra is an ardent advocate for a STEM-educated workforce. She brings to Marymount the mindset of a trained scientist and seasoned entrepreneur. She transformed the organizational structure at St. Thomas, reinvigorated its institutional commitment to scholarships and worked with teams of colleagues to attract top students through innovative, market-based programs.

Dr. Becerra is mother of two adult children. Her son Anthony is currently earning his J.D. and MBA at St. Thomas University, having earned his undergraduate degree from Emory University. Her daughter Nicole is a Boston College alumna and currently a director at Macy’s Corporation.

MARYMOUNT UNIVERSITY ALMA MATER



The - blue of Vir - gin - ia's sun - lit skies, The glo - ry of
clouds so bright, are not half so fair and can't com -
pare with our own dear Blue and White. Oh, Ma - ry - mount,
Ma - ry - mount, prais-es of thee we sing, With - in thy walls and state-ly halls our joy - ful voi - ces
ring. We love thy name so glo - ri - ous, we hail thy fame vic - to - ri - ous, Oh Ma-ry mount, Oh
Ma-ry - mount, Al-ma Ma - ter of thee we sing, Al - ma Ma - ter of thee we sing.

THE MACE

The mace of Marymount University has been carried in academic processions since the early 1970s, when it was given to the institution by Marjorie Willard, professor emerita. Miss Willard joined the faculty in 1954 and served for many years as faculty marshal after being elected to the position by her colleagues. Made of silver in the tradition of Virginia colleges, the mace is crowned with the seal of the university, which incorporates the trefoil cross and the heart for the Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary; the fleur de lis for France, where the RSHM order was founded in 1849; and bars symbolizing the stripes of the American flag.

