
CONFERRAL OF THE HONORARY DEGREE

DOCTOR OF HUMANITIES, honoris causa

Gery Short, M.Div., M.A., M.S.

Through his teaching, coordinating, developing, and leading—both regionally and internationally, and with a special focus on Mission—Gery Short has embraced for more than 30 years his vocation as a lay person in the Church serving the students, faculty, staff, and administrators of the District of San Francisco, New Orleans, and the worldwide Catholic and Lasallian Mission of the Brothers of the Christian Schools—the sponsors of Lewis University since 1960. In addition, as a refection of the Brothers' Mission commitment to the poor, Mr Short developed and coordinated national and international immersion programs to help students and educators meet and personally the value of the Lasallian Mission of the Brothers of the Christian Schools—the indeed, as “a member of the first generation of lay persons to play a significant role in the leadership of the Institute,” Mr Short is “a pioneer...setting the stage for more and more lay men and women to step into leadership roles with the Christian Brothers at local, District, Regional, and international levels.

Gery Short began his groundbreaking vocation with the De La Salle Christian Brothers as a Social Studies and Religion teacher and department chair at Saint Mary's College High School in Berkeley, California. He then served for ten years as Coordinator of Lasallian School Programs throughout his vocation.

Mr Short holds a Bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan; a Master's of Divinity degree from the Franciscan School of Theology in Berkeley, California; a Master of Arts degree in Theology from Graduate Theological Union, also in Berkeley; and a Master's of Science degree in Human Resource Management and Organizational Development from Golden Gate University in San Francisco. He and his wife Rosanne, a registered nurse, have two daughters, Nora and Megan and a son, Joseph.

Throughout a lifetime of dedication to the Catholic Church, and in particular to the Brothers of the Christian Schools, Gery Short has exemplified the pivotal role of the lay leadership roles, affecting the very direction of the international network of Lasallian schools, including as the first lay person to serve on a District Leadership team in the Institute; as a member of the Regional Task Force to establish a shared governance structure for the Mission of Lasallian Schools in the United States and Canada; as a lay consultant to both the 1993 and 2000 General Chapters in Rome; as a member of the International Mission Assembly in 2006.