Fr. David Ciancimino, S.J. returned to Canisius High School as president in 2015 following a six-year term as the Provincial Superior for the Society of Jesus (Jesuits) New York Province. He previously served at Canisius as a teacher, director of admissions and principal.

Canisius has gone through some changes since you returned in 2015. What has stood out to you?

Fr. Ciancimino: Being able to expand our commitment to the arts and grow our campus footprint with the acquisition of the building at 1140 Delaware Avenue has been a positive addition. Dedicating significant and quality space for the arts also gave us more flexibility in our space within the main campus and we’ve been able to add a makerspace lab for STEM learning, and expand the campus ministry center. We’ve also renovated the chapel and library in the last few years.

What was Canisius’ endowment five years ago and what is it today?

Fr. Ciancimino: Five years ago the endowment was at $13.8 million. We’ve grown that to $23.1 million today. Continued endowment growth is important to our Jesuit mission. The endowment enables us to offer a quality Jesuit education to young men from families of all income levels, and allows us to hire and retain highly qualified and committed teachers.

What is the total enrollment and is there a goal for growing it in the next five years?

Fr. Ciancimino: Enrollment has averaged 800 students in recent years. This is a healthy level, but we have room for more students. Sharing our story of what Canisius has to offer, most importantly the academic excellence, and helping families to understand the value of a Jesuit education, is key to enrollment growth.

Service programs are an important component of the Jesuit education experience at Canisius. What do the service programs entail?

Fr. Ciancimino: In 2017-18, our students completed 21,000 service hours in more than 300 locations – that’s locally as well as trips to other parts of the country, and international service trips. Our Ignatian service immersion programs, along with our retreat programs, are part of the Cura Personalis or the development and “care of the whole person.” This care is central to Jesuit education and informs everything we do. Through prayer, reflection, and action, the student learns to recognize God’s presence, the holy, within himself and in the world around him.

Canisius is the only Jesuit high school in Western New York. How is Canisius involved in the worldwide Jesuit network?

Fr. Ciancimino: One of the benefits of modern technology is its ability to connect us to people around the world. Our proposed Center for Global Learning is envisioned as a hub for this type of activity. Connecting students with our alumni and Jesuit schools across the country and around the globe will give them the opportunity to engage more fully with others and the pressing issues of our time, and help them develop into global citizens. As people are connected, the learning experience deepens, friendships and opportunities grow, and understanding, collaboration, reconciliation, and peace become possibilities.

You mentioned previously the addition of the Center for the Arts at 1140 Delaware Avenue. How do the arts play in to this campaign?

Fr. Ciancimino: Students and teachers alike tell me that having dedicated space for the arts is a huge benefit. Now that the space is there, we can evolve and grow our arts programs. We would also like to develop an endowment to fund an artist-in-residence position, host art shows, and so on.

What does this Rich Tradition and Bold Vision campaign mean to you?

Fr. Ciancimino: When St. Ignatius Loyola sent the early Jesuits on mission he said: “Go, set the world on fire.” That’s still our mission today. Unlike Ignatius, we now have centuries of Rich Tradition with the Jesuits, and 150 years of rich tradition at Canisius, but we don’t rest on these rich traditions. We move forward with the same audacity and holy boldness that 150 years ago saw Jesuits come to our city and open our school. We have a Bold Vision for the future of Canisius – a vision that will assure our Jesuit mission and prepare our young men for the world they’ll face as adults. It’s a world that is changing quickly and we have an opportunity, with this campaign, to be bold and make investments that will position Canisius for future generations.
FUTURE PRIORITIES

Our initiatives are central to the Jesuit mission of always looking and reaching beyond ourselves for new ways to enhance our student learning experience. As we prepare to celebrate our 150-year anniversary and fuel our vision forward, we invite you to learn more about our vision, which includes the following goals we have set for the Canisius community:

• To create new facilities and improve upon existing ones
• To expand our programming
• To grow our endowment
Canisius High School recognizes its strength in the Buffalo region and looks to enhance and promote learning for students through globally connected classrooms. The Center for Global Learning is a programmatic experience created to virtually connect faculty and students at 2,300 Jesuit institutions.

With a planned location near the front entrance of the school, the Center for Global Learning will provide a programmatic experience to enhance and promote learning by virtually connecting classrooms with other Jesuit institutions and Canisius alumni worldwide. Faculty and students will be able to share a cultural and educational exchange, opening Canisius students to a world of knowledge beyond the classroom, and demonstrate “when theory meets practice” with the latest technology.

A Global Learning Advisory Council comprised of Canisius faculty, alumni, and Jesuit faculty or professions from other institutions, who will collectively support the Global Learning Center and counsel students by nurturing their specific areas of professional expertise.

Additional information can be found in the Project Overview insert.
THE ROBERT J. STRANSKY MEMORIAL ATHLETIC COMPLEX

The Stransky complex plays an integral role in building school pride and showcasing the exceptional talent at Canisius. Capital improvements will round out the plans for Canisius' permanent home for athletics.

Having captured 13 of the last 15 Supremacy Cups, awarded annually to the top overall Monsignor Martin Athletic Association school, Canisius holds the premier high school sports program in Western New York. Approximately 18% of Canisius students-athletes go on to play collegiate sports, as compared to 2% nationally. However, to maintain our athletic strength and attract high-level talent, Canisius’ Robert J. Stransky Memorial Athletic Complex needs expansion.

Stransky has been home to our football, soccer, lacrosse and track and field teams since 2009. The state-of-the-art Koessler Field features a synthetic surface for play with extra padding to minimize impact to student-athletes, plus an eight-lane track. Along with a new locker room facility for both home and visiting teams, these features make Stransky a premier venue for sporting events.

Additional information listed in the Project Overview insert.
Seizing a rare opportunity to expand our campus, this historical mansion was acquired by Canisius in spring 2017. The space, located at 1140 Delaware Avenue, is a significant commitment to our arts program, and to developing the diverse talents of our students.

This carefully renovated, state-of-the-art 13,000 square foot facility houses our art and music programs with dedicated rehearsal spaces for music ensembles, individual practice spaces for student-musicians, and architecture, ceramics, sculpture and art classrooms.

Additional details listed in the Project Overview insert.
The Blue Doors Annual Fund is a primary way Canisius High School raises funds for financial aid and student programs.

Gifts from alumni, families and friends provide unrestricted revenue to the school’s budget, and are the second largest source of income for the school. These funds are raised and spent within the fiscal year to support the school’s ongoing needs.

The actual cost of a Canisius education is higher than the tuition charged. To keep a Jesuit education accessible to our families, Canisius supplements each student’s tuition by $2,300 annually.

- 66% of Canisius students receive additional financial aid.
- Last year, Canisius awarded nearly $2.5 million in need-based aid.

Along with need-based tuition assistance, the Blue Doors Annual Fund also supports an exceptional Jesuit education through:

- Athletics and intramurals
- Performing and fine arts
- Campus ministry Ignatian service programs, and retreats
- Innovative technology
- Faculty and staff professional development

Strong schools have strong annual funds. The annual fund has enriched the school community, allowing young men to enter the blue doors and grow into “Men For Others”... for 150 years and counting.
Please join us!

Alumni, parents, supporters and friends,

As Canisius High School celebrates its 150th anniversary, we are honored to help mark this historic moment with a campaign that will invest in the education we value for our students now and for generations to come. As co-chairs of the Rich Tradition. Bold Vision. campaign, we are proud of our past, excited about our future, and more confident than ever before in our School, its leadership, and its pathway forward.

This campaign is meaningful – it is bold but reflective of what our needs are and what we are capable of achieving. Canisius students stand at the forefront of our plans: more scholarship dollars, programmatic opportunities, and capital enhancements will make for the top-tier experience we already offer to only improve and further the opportunities our young men have.

As we reflect upon our tradition, whether you are an alum, parent or friend of the School, we maintain that Jesuit education is about creating people for others. It was at the core of our camaraderie and our drive to have impact on the world. We have been grateful for the strong group of leadership who has experienced that tradition, who has gathered by our side in recent years when the School has faced challenges which many institutions have experienced due to external circumstances. We rose to the occasion and secured financing to invest in strategic opportunities that would help solidify our place as a premier value-based college-preparatory School in the Buffalo region. That bold decision has paid off. CHS’s financial position is strong, and is delivering on an aggressive plan to service the cost of our strategic financing.

To the leadership and staff we thank you. Our alums are proud, engaged, and willing to help us invest in our students. To the parents, families, alums and supporters: we are grateful for all that you continue to do to generously support us, and we are thrilled to share the contents of this campaign with you. Consider joining us in our bold investment built with the tradition of CHS at the core. We are committed to the success of this impactful and meaningful endeavor which requires the support of our Canisius community and will yield results we all can see and feel. Thank you.

Your Rich Tradition. Bold Vision. Co-Chairs,

Bob Reger & Pete Augustine

RICH TRADITION. BOLD VISION.