

Biography: President Barbara R. Snyder

Barbara R. Snyder became president of Case Western Reserve University on July 1, 2007. A professor who began her academic career as a faculty member at our School of Law, she returned to campus committed to increasing academic excellence, enhancing faculty collaboration, and improving alumni engagement.



Five years later, the university is experiencing unprecedented success in each of these areas. Graduates and other supporters have dramatically increased donations and pledges each year; in 2010-2011, their \$126.2 million commitments set an all-time record for the university. In addition, the overall number of donors has climbed steadily, while the size of the average gift grew by 80 percent since 2007.

This progress enabled the university to launch *Forward Thinking*, the university's \$1 billion capital campaign, with more than 60 percent of the goal raised during the quiet phase. Among the most significant commitments realized during President Snyder's tenure are:

- \$50 million from The Weatherhead Foundation to support management education and community health initiatives;
- \$23.5 million from the family of James W. Williamson, for scholarships, professorships and other academic programs across the university;
- \$20 million from The Veale Foundation to support construction of the Tinkham Veale II University Center; and
- \$20 million from an anonymous alumni donor to support programs in the natural sciences.

As President Snyder worked to establish strong relationships with alumni and other external stakeholders, she and her leadership team also worked closely with faculty on the university's academic direction. By the end of President Snyder's initial year, the university had adopted its first strategic plan in nearly two decades. The document emphasized the importance of interdisciplinary initiatives, among them energy, advanced materials, and human health. It also urged increased attention to internationalization and diversity; within seven months of the plan's adoption, the university had created and filled new leadership positions in each area.

Meanwhile, undergraduate applications to Case Western Reserve have doubled since she arrived, to a total of 14,700 in 2012. Meanwhile, selectivity has grown by

more than a third, and academic credentials have climbed dramatically. In 2011 *The Huffington Post* named Case Western Reserve among the nation's nine "trendiest colleges," a list that also included Columbia and Yale universities. That same year *The Washington Monthly* placed Case Western Reserve 7th on its list of universities that contribute to the common good. Finally, in 2011 *U.S. News & World Report* ranked the university 38th – up four places from where it stood when President Snyder arrived.

Looking ahead, Case Western Reserve continues to seek ways to build upon its strengths. The president and university leaders also are committed to a community culture that nurtures the inherent possibility of all of its members – one that is welcoming, inclusive, and committed to transparency.

Snyder assumed the Case Western Reserve presidency after serving as Executive Vice President and Provost of The Ohio State University. Prior to becoming Provost, Snyder served as Vice Provost for Academic Policy and Human Resources and filled in as the university's Interim Vice President for University Relations. As a professor at OSU's Moritz College of Law, she also served as Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and as Director of the Center for Socio-Legal Studies. In 1997, the school's third-year students voted to give Snyder the College of Law Outstanding Professor Award. She held the Joanne W. Murphy / Classes of 1965 and 1973 Professorship.

Snyder joined OSU's Moritz College of Law in 1988, after spending five years as a professor at Case Western Reserve's School of Law. She joined Case Western Reserve after serving as an associate at the Sidley & Austin law firm in Chicago. She graduated from the University of Chicago Law School, where she served as executive editor of its law review, and earned her bachelor's degree from Ohio State.

Her husband is Michael J. Snyder, who earned his Masters in Business Administration from the Weatherhead School of Management. They have three adult children.