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COYNE COLLEGE TO DISCONTINUE ALL OPERATIONS

AT THE END OF MARCH, 2022

CHICAGO, IL – Michelle Freeman, President of Coyne College (“Coyne”), said Coyne’s last cohort of students will graduate in March, 2022.

Ms. Freeman said the difficult decision to cease Coyne’s operations was made after careful analysis of its current and projected fiscal position. Ms. Freeman’s late husband, Russell (“Wicker”) Freeman, who had spent his career building Coyne, was burdened with making the difficult decision. Throughout its 120-year history, Coyne has provided in-demand degree and diploma programs to enable students to obtain employment in areas employers have needed. Coyne’s exceptional curriculum and instructors helped thousands of individuals learn skilled trades and, as a result, earned family supporting wages.

Ms. Freeman noted that many other trade schools throughout the country have closed due to similar fiscal pressures, including those caused by the significant enrollment declines from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Ms. Virginia Hanson, the Director of Education, added that in November 2020, Coyne announced to staff and students that new students would no longer be admitted. Coyne dedicated itself to teaching students to ensure they could graduate and be placed in field-related employment. Coyne’s professionals have ensured it continued to make all of its resources available to its current students while they completed their degrees at Coyne. Coyne’s students have continued to maintain high levels of employment placement, even during the COVID-19 pandemic.

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“Right now, our priority is to assist all members of our college community in this transition, especially our students. Throughout the wind down process, Coyne has continued to keep student success as its top priority. It has continued to offer and teach all required classes to students to ensure their future success,” Ms. Hanson said. “Transitioning our students to have the success they have worked for after their Coyne education will be our priority.”

Ms. Freeman said Coyne has continued to provide students with access to academic counselors and other professionals to assist them with graduation, securing employment, transfer options, and financial aid questions.

She added that Coyne counseled students on transfer options for those who wished to complete their degree elsewhere. For these students, Coyne has worked to assist them in enrolling at colleges to put them on a path to complete a comparable program. Ms. Freeman also noted how important Coyne’s faculty, staff, and administrators were in ensuring Coyne’s students were taken care of during the wind down.

“This was an extremely difficult decision; Coyne has had an extraordinary impact on Chicago and on the students who attended it throughout its 120-year history. The decision to close was made only after much discussion and thoughtful consideration of all the options.”

 “Coyne has trained and awarded degrees to thousands of students who have gone on to become successful trade and medical professionals. These individuals have been able to obtain careers that provide a living wage to them and their families. Coyne has supplied highly skilled workers to the Chicago area for over 120 years, and while we are saddened by the need to end our educational mission, we will maintain our legacy in the community through our alumni who are serving in the trade and health care industries,” said Ms. Freeman.

Mr. Freeman, who preferred to be called “Wicker,” was actively involved in Coyne and greatly contributed to post-secondary higher education for 34 years. A highly-regarded leader, Mr. Freeman was dedicated to many organizations, including the Imagine American Foundation, Career Education Colleges, and Illinois Career College Association. Mr. Freeman also was a driving force behind the Coyne American Institute Education Foundation (“CAIEF”), which furthered Coyne students’ dreams of a quality education through scholarship opportunities that helped fund their career training at Coyne.

The lasting impact of Mr. Freeman and all of those at Coyne who have worked tirelessly for many years to educate students and help them succeed can best be celebrated in the testimonials of Coyne’s graduates. One Coyne graduate reflected: “The biggest influence to attend Coyne would be my family. I’ve been fortunate enough to have three generations of Coyne alumni in my family: my grandfather, my dad, and my uncle. They’ve all been so successful and accomplished.” Another student commented: “Coyne has changed my life for the better and made me a better overall person.”