



of Saint Joseph

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

March 11, 2025

Mayor Eddie Melton Office of the Mayor of the City of Gary 401 Broadway Gary, IN 46402

Dear Mayor Melton,

On behalf of Calumet College of St. Joseph, we provide this letter of support for the proposal submitted by the City of Gary (the "City") and Hard Rock Northern Indiana ("Hard Rock") in response to the RFP/RFQ issued by the Lake County Board of Commissioners for a Lake County Convention Center (the "Proposal").

As an institution of higher education, Calumet College of St. Joseph has a long history of serving the community of Gary, where many of our students reside and pursue their education. We firmly believe in the importance of creating vital, thriving communities that are rich in opportunities for both residents and students alike. By building the Lake County Convention Center at the Hard Rock Casino, we see tremendous potential for the city of Gary to prosper, creating jobs, economic growth, and an environment that fosters further educational and career opportunities for students who earn their degrees.

The partnership between the City of Gary and Hard Rock presents an exceptional opportunity not just for Gary, but for all of Lake County. We are confident that the convention center will benefit surrounding municipalities, local businesses, residents, and educational institutions like ours. The convention center will be a catalyst for economic development, drawing visitors, expanding business opportunities, and enhancing the region's overall quality of life.

As a college committed to supporting the success of our students and community, we are excited about the positive impact this project will have on the future of our students and graduates. We believe that this Proposal will help make the City of Gary and Lake County an even more vibrant and prosperous place for generations to come.

We respectfully ask that, in selecting the winner of the RFP/RFQ, the Board of Commissioners consider our support for this Proposal. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me directly.

Sincerely

Dr. Amy McCormack President