**UMI Province Ignatian Educator with Distinction**

The “UMI Province Ignatian Educator with Distinction” is a campus and public recognition of a person's commitment and competence in animating the Jesuit tradition of academic excellence. The UMI Province Ignatian Educator with Distinction was the creative inspiration of Debra Mooney, Vice-President for Mission and Identity at Xavier University. The title also carries the following heft:

1. Province affiliation adds weight to the honor since it is beyond our individual campuses.
2. “Educator” refers to faculty, staff, and administrators – to underscore the point that all are involved in – and contribute to the educational enterprise.
3. “Distinction” is preferred over “certified” so that the public and prospective families do not confuse it with high school teacher credentialing.

The standard for this pilot is based on depth and time of education – at Xavier University approximately 20 hours in a one-year period engaged in comprehensive education and/or scholarship on Jesuit identity, including pedagogy, spirituality and heritage.

Fr. Paulson offered several observations on this trial program. The pilot will offer the possibility of being implemented on all UMI university campuses in the future. Fr. Paulson liked the idea of a “continuing education” aspect which would be in place to insure continued engagement over time of this cohort.

Fr. Paulson also noted the following:

An additional consideration: for campuses where this does not already occur in other ways, it seems to me that over time, this “cohort” of mission-driven “Province Ignatian Educators of Distinction” would be a group which VPs for Mission would want to intentionally “pastor” – and offer them periodic opportunities for spiritual conversation about the mission in an Ignatian manner, etc., opportunities for prayer and reflection, as possible and appropriate on any given campus. I believe there are adults on our campus, deeply aligned with our mission, who would be hungry for and receptive to such invitations from the mission office.

28 March 2019