



Leadership Lunches

Sponsored By: The Center for Women's Intercultural Leadership and the Board of Governance

Paula Dawning Saint Mary's Board of Trustee

Paula Dawning a Saint Mary's alumna was born and raised in an integrated community of South Bend, Indiana. Being the fifth of 13 children she learned to fend for herself. Growing up she learned how to be different and unique and whenever she had a role to play she was very outgoing.

Paula was enrolled at Saint Mary's College when the population of African Americans students was only seven. In the 70's she held a protest to be noticed and recognized on campus. "I was the voice of unpopular decisions," Paula says. Dawning states that true leaders see the future and are ahead of the crowd. It's a very lonely place trying to get people to see and have a shared vision. Graduating with a French major she went on to have many different jobs in life. "Writing is a critical skill and it will serve you well



for the rest of your career" she says. Paula Dawning spent 23 years as an executive with AT&T working in sales, marketing, engineering, and human resources before becoming superintendent of the Benton Harbor schools. Don't be afraid to do something different, she explains; for much as you think you know you'll find out how much you don't know in life. It is important to not only listen to what is said but to what is not said as well. Do some active listening, pushing questions to get clarification. As a leader you have to make people feel validated. People act from a place of emotion and usually use intellect to rationalize their emotion.

"I was a voice of unpopular decisions"



Time is the only thing that is certain. Learn how to move quickly through it.

Paula is a member of the Saint Mary's College Board of Trustees, and on the International Board of the Center for Women's InterCultural Leadership

Helpful life lessons

Learn to :

- ◆ Be flexible
- ◆ Be willing to take risks
- ◆ Be involved in the community
- ◆ Learn quickly
- ◆ Serve others
- ◆ Know that you can have a mentor who is your peer.

Every other Monday from noon to 1:00 pm the Center for Women's Intercultural Leadership and the Board of Governance sponsor a Leadership Lunch and welcome community women in leadership onto campus to share their stories with the Saint Mary's community. It is an opportunity for students, faculty and staff to get connected with our women leaders and discuss a variety of issues and concerns. It also opens opportunities for student internships. Sarita Fritzier a senior Political Science major plays an important role in organizing this event.