

Dr. Richard A. Yanikoski

Class of 1964

An expert on Catholic higher education with nearly three decades of experience, Dr. Richard “Dick” Yanikoski is the president and CEO of the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities (ACCU). Founded in 1899, the ACCU promotes and strengthens the mission and character of Catholic higher education in the United States.

Prior to the ACCU, Dr. Yanikoski served as president of Saint Xavier University from 1994 to 2003, when he was named president emeritus. Previously, he served as associate vice president for academic affairs at DePaul University from 1983 to 1991. From 1991 to 1994 at DePaul, he was the director of the Public Services Graduate Program and he founded the Chaddick Institute for Metropolitan Development. He also has lectured at Loyola University Chicago’s School of Education.

He earned a bachelor of arts degree in psychology in 1968 from Stonehill College and a PhD. in higher education from the University of Chicago in 1987. Dr. Yanikoski has written and published numerous papers and articles, and is a widely sought after speaker on higher educational issues.

In 2009, he was awarded an honorary doctorate from Fontbonne University. He received the Management Leadership Recognition Award, Illinois Association of Institutional Research in 2003, and the “Catholic Man of the Year,” from the Society of Saint James the Apostle in Chicago in 2000.

Dr. Yanikoski serves as a consultant on the Committee on Catholic Education for the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops; and as a member of several committees and advisory boards including the Committee on Accountability for the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, the National Catholic Education Association and Boston College’s Institute for Administrators in Catholic Higher Education.

The Yanikoskis are an AWHHS legacy family with Dick’s sister, Mary Yanikoski Schmidt graduating in 1968, and his brothers Charles and Joseph graduating in 1970 and 1974, respectively.

Dr. Yanikoski recently announced that he will retire from his post in 2010, after completing five years at ACCU. He and his wife, Wendy, plan to retire to southern Indiana, where they already are rehabilitating an early 19th-century building near the Ohio River.