



Dr. William R. Fitzsimmons Class of 1963

Since 1986, Dr. William “Bill” Fitzsimmons has served as dean of admissions and financial aid at Harvard University, where he earned bachelor, masters and doctoral degrees. Prior to that he was executive director of the Harvard College Fund and, from 1975-1984, director of admissions at Harvard and Radcliffe colleges.

After earning his Ed.D. in 1971, Dr. Fitzsimmons was assistant professor of sociology at the College of the Holy Cross. He returned to Harvard in 1973, as a lecturer in the department of psychology and social relations.

Dr. Fitzsimmons is a former trustee of the College Board and former chair of the Commission on the Use of Standardized Tests in Undergraduate Admissions. He is a member of the National Association for College Admission Counseling. He is the recipient of the New England Association for College Admission Counseling’s Harry Carroll Distinguished Service Award. Dr. Fitzsimmons has an honorary degree from Lackawanna College.

He is the author of several articles and is considered an expert resource regarding the importance of a college education, and access to an education to all students, regardless of socioeconomic background. Under Dr. Fitzsimmons’ leadership, Harvard College developed an innovative program that allows qualified students to attend Harvard tuition-free if they come from families with incomes of \$60,000 or less. He notes, “It is important to remember that access to higher education around the world is at present limited to a lucky few. Those fortunate enough to enjoy such a privilege have a responsibility to use their talents to provide expanded opportunities for future generations. “

He has delivered the Commencement address at Archbishop Williams twice; first in 1988 and again in 2003. He is a member of a proud AWHHS legacy family; his brother John ’71 and late brother, Mark ’68, also are alumni. Dr. Fitzsimmons resides in Weston with his wife, Patricia.