

Shirley Mullen



Shirley Mullen served 15 years as President of Houghton College, Houghton, N.Y., retiring in May 2021. She has spent four decades in the work of faith based liberal arts education. Prior to becoming Houghton's president, she served at various times as a classroom professor, chief academic officer and residence life director. She is an avid life-long learner with earned doctorates in both history and philosophy, focusing in her studies on the Enlightenment period and its complex impact on the Modern World, on liberal learning, and on our understanding of the human condition.

During her presidency, Mullen led efforts to strengthen Houghton's longstanding commitment to the natural sciences, especially undergraduate research; to expand the college's capacity to serve under-represented populations; and to highlight such curricular and co-curricular opportunities of Houghton's location as environmental sustainability and equestrian studies. She served on the boards of NAICU (National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities) and chaired four regional accreditation teams for the Middle States Commission on Higher Education.

As President Emerita, she continues to speak, write, and consult, as well as to encourage and develop the next generation of leaders through mentoring and serving on the boards of the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities, Jericho Road Community Health Center, the National Association of Evangelicals, Fuller Seminary, and the First Amendment Partnership.

She has written or presented academic papers on such diverse figures as the Victorian Freethinkers, Hannah More, John Wesley, and David Hume. She has co-led several European Travel-Study programs on *Art and Ideas of the Western Tradition*, and travelled extensively in such places as China, South Africa, Sierra Leone, the United Kingdom, Europe, and the Maritime Provinces of Canada. She is married to Dr. Paul Mills, also a retired college president, and resides in Houghton, New York.