

**Dr. Chuck Quarles' Introduction of Dr. Joe Aguillard**  
**Inauguration Ceremony**  
**March 23, 2006**

Esteemed faculty, staff, students and distinguished guests, it is my privilege to introduce to you Dr. Joe W. Aguillard. Dr. Aguillard was born in Basile, Louisiana in 1956. He was raised by two godly Christian parents, Harry and Helyn Greene Aguillard, who both graduated from Louisiana College. He confessed faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord at the age of nine under the ministry of Joe Kite. After graduating from Basile High School in 1974, he enrolled at Louisiana College where he completed his Bachelor of Arts in English and Communication Arts in just three years. He has shown me the very spot in our college library where he first saw a beautiful Christian girl named Judy Collins who would eventually become his wife. God has blessed the couple with three children, Jill, Julie, and Jodie, all of whom have graduated from Louisiana College.

Dr. Aguillard earned both a Master of Education in Guidance and Counseling and a Master of Education in Administration/Supervision at McNeese State University. He continued graduate study at McNeese, Northwestern State University and then received his Doctor of Education degree with an emphasis on Educational Leadership at Nova University in Fort Lauderdale, Florida in 1989. He has had a total of twenty-two years of service as a teacher, coach, counselor, administrator and superintendent in the Louisiana public school system.

In 2000, he joined the faculty of Louisiana College, chairing the Division of Education. Under his administration the college's teacher education program grew by nearly 600 percent, making it the fastest growing program of its kind in the United States. Dr. Aguillard was elected President of the Deans of the Colleges of Education for Louisiana and was appointed by Governor Kathleen Blanco to the Blue Ribbon Commission on Education on which he served faithfully and effectively as the representative for higher education. Even a cursory reading of his student evaluations shows that he provided an excellent model for the integration of the Christian faith and learning in the classroom. Because of his warmhearted, engaging teaching style and his Christ-like spirit, the student body selected him as the outstanding Teacher of the Year in 2004.

In the 12 months since being named as Louisiana College's 8<sup>th</sup> president, Dr. Aguillard developed and initiated the multi-million dollar Centennial campaign celebrating our 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. He has secured a commitment to bring a President of the United States, George Herbert Walker Bush, to our campus, the first presidential visit to the college in its one hundred year history. He has led the board, faculty, and administration in responding to the SACS recommendations and resulted in SACS vote in December to remove LC from probation.

All of this is very impressive, but it is not the reason that I have grown to love and respect him as I have worked at his side for the last nine months. It is not the reason that he is a hero to my nine year old son. It is not the reason that God smiles on him today. Those who know Joe Aguillard best recognize him as a man after God's own heart who loves Christ deeply. He is a visionary leader who sees not only what is but what can be. He is a servant leader who is characterized by humble dependence on God and appreciation for the contributions of others. He is a man of strong convictions who is unflinching in his stand for the truth of God's word, a man of courage whose commitment to follow God's will is undaunted in the face of adversity and opposition. A man of integrity who will not compromise his beliefs for the sake of his own popularity and whose values are not for sale to the highest bidder. In short, he is the man that

God has appointed “for such a time as this.” Ladies and Gentlemen, please welcome to the platform the eighth president of Louisiana College, Dr. Joe W. Aguillard!