Stephanie Bergeron
President
Walsh College

As assistant treasurer for Chrysler Corporation from 1988-1998, Stephanie Bergeron helped manage the money of a troubled corporation during a turbulent era. Now, after eleven years on Walsh College's board and two years as president, she and her campuses are ready for anything this economy delivers.

Part 2 of 2

How else do you put the student first?
We try to keep the classroom experience intimate, and we focus on the instructor/student relationship, both in and out of class. Our faculty also understands how important communication is in the online classroom, so they check student e-mails two to three times a day and always respond within 48 hours. Classroom faculty members' office hours are readily available, and adjunct faculty are available in the evenings.

Have you innovated in other ways for the benefit of students?
Yes. We've just begun using a newly constructed building that includes classrooms, team workrooms, a new library and a 135-seat lecture hall. It’s won acclaim and multiple awards from various organizations like the Engineering Society of Detroit, and the city of Troy chamber of commerce for its energy efficiency, green design and interesting architecture. We are also awaiting LEED certification. The interior design is also innovative. Teachers and students love the time they spend there.

How important is your tuition price to your success?
We position our tuition pricing to be in line with our competitors. And by the way, our sticker price is our actual price. That’s consistent with our desire for transparency. Our students understand it, and they appreciate the fact there is no system that invites gaming. That enables our back office to be easily managed.

Describe your transfer credit policy and process.
We accept entering juniors with as many as 82 credit hours from our community college partners, and as many as 91 credit hours from other accredited schools. As the admissions advisor reviews and evaluates the applicant's transcript in person, the applicant selects a degree and a path through Walsh College to achieve it. We have been following this process for thirty years, and we’re steadily and continuously improving it.

What business advantages do you enjoy serving upper-level undergraduates and graduate students?
We avoid the attrition that accompanies freshmen and sophomores. We attract a student who is mature and clearly focused on the outcome. With families and perhaps jobs, our students are less interested in extracurricular activities.

Who are Walsh College's competitors?
Three local state institutions: Oakland University. Wayne State University. University of Michigan-Dearborn.

Where would you like to be five years from now?
I’d like to be in my seventh year as president of this vibrant forward-looking college at the forefront of business education in the United States.