



INAUGURATING
THE NEXT CHAPTER

AUGUSTANA UNIVERSITY
GRATEFULLY WELCOMES YOUR PRAYERS
AS WE PREPARE TO INAUGURATE OUR 24TH PRESIDENT,
STEPHANIE HERSETH SANDLIN

You are invited to say this prayer as a part of
your congregation's Sunday morning worship
and take it home with you to include in your daily prayers.

God of wisdom and mercy, we give you thanks for the gift of learning;
for teachers who inspire both faith and critical thinking,
and for colleges and universities that call out gifts
and prepare students to be servant leaders in the world.

We pray especially for Augustana University as it prepares to
inaugurate a new president, Stephanie Herseith Sandlin.

Bless her work, strengthen her vision and guide her leadership,
that she might faithfully carry out your mission at Augustana.
May all who enter classrooms to learn, leave campus emboldened
to serve you, your church and your whole creation.

We commend to you, God, all faculty, students, staff, and
administrators at our institutions of higher education.

We pray all this in the name of Jesus, our first and best teacher.

Amen.



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STEPHANIE HERSETH SANDLIN

grew up on her family’s farm near Houghton, South Dakota. She attended college in Washington, D.C., earning undergraduate, graduate and law degrees from Georgetown University. During this time, she was a teaching fellow for university students and an instructor on the faculty of the law school.

In 2002, she became the first executive director of the South Dakota Farmers Union Foundation where she worked to strengthen cooperative education and enhance rural economic development.

In 2004, she became the first woman elected to the U.S. House of Representatives from South Dakota as well as the youngest woman serving in the House during that time. While in Congress, she specialized in developing policy important to South Dakota, including agriculture, renewable energy, veterans’ education and tribal affairs.

She earned a number of national distinctions while serving in Congress, including being named among the Ten Outstanding Young Americans in 2006 by the U.S. Junior Chamber. She was also included on TIME magazine’s 40 Under 40 list of “New Civic Leaders.”

After leaving Congress in 2011, she became a partner in a Washington, D.C., law firm, building a public policy practice centered on bioenergy, food safety and nutrition. In 2012, she joined Raven Industries in Sioux Falls as its first general counsel and vice president of corporate development. As an executive officer for Raven, as well as a member of the CoBank Board of Directors, she has been actively involved in strategic planning, governance, enterprise risk management and oversight of financial performance.

Herseth Sandlin and her husband, Max Sandlin, are parents to Zachary, age 8. They live in Sioux Falls and enjoy all things baseball and bluegrass. They also have four older children — Hillary, Trey, Emily and Christian — and three beautiful granddaughters, all of whom currently reside in Texas.



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