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Belmont, NC (July 9, 2018)—Dr. Joseph Wysocki of Belmont Abbey has been named to the Council of Scholars of the American Academy for Liberal Education (AALE). The AALE is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting liberal arts education and granting accreditation to liberal arts institutions and programs.

The mission statement of the American Academy for Liberal Education is to “promote excellence in liberal education by providing recognition of schools and programs that maintain the highest standards of liberal arts learning.” It accomplishes this by providing resources and support for schools who wish to dedicate themselves to the ideals of a liberal education. Further, the AALE provides accreditation to institutions that meet their high standards. The AALE serves schools ranging from pre-kindergarten through masters level and also offers accreditation for international schools. The current executive director is Mary Ann Powers.

Dr. Wysocki has been named to the Council of Scholars of the AALE. The Council’s role is to develop accreditation standards and to provide recommendations on membership applications to the Board of Directors. The Council of Scholars is composed of academics or administrators from higher education who serve terms of four years. Dr. Wysocki’s peers on the council hail from institutions including the US Coast Guard Academy, St. John’s College, and the University of St. Thomas.

In a letter about his election, Todd Breyfogle, the Chair of the Board of Trustees, wrote to Dr. Wysocki that “It is a challenging time that has brought to light how important the dedication and contribution of each Council of Scholars member is to the organizational strength of AALE” and that he hopes Dr. Wysocki will be a great help to the AALE. Dr. Wysocki added that he is, “grateful to be able to contribute to the important work done by the AALE and to represent Belmont Abbey College’s commitment to true liberal education to [his] new colleagues on the Council of Scholars.”

Dr. Wysocki attended Belmont Abbey as an undergraduate, graduating in the class of 2004. He went on to earn his doctorate in Political Science from Baylor University. He then returned to Belmont Abbey where he taught Political Science and was particularly regarded for his classes on the US Constitution. He has led the St. Thomas More Scholars program, Moot Court, and more recently taken leadership of

the Honors College. In 2017, he received the Adrian Faculty Excellence Award, Belmont Abbey's highest honor for teachers. He is currently the Assistant Dean for Academic Affairs.

About Belmont Abbey College: Founded in 1876, Belmont Abbey College is a private, Catholic, baccalaureate and liberal arts institution. Our mission is to educate students in the liberal arts and sciences so that in all things God may be glorified. Guided by the Catholic intellectual tradition and the Benedictine spirit of prayer and learning, we welcome a diverse body of students and provide them with an education that will enable them to lead lives of integrity, to succeed professionally, to become responsible citizens, and to be a blessing to themselves and to others. Our beautiful and historic campus is conveniently located just 10 miles west of Charlotte, N.C., and is currently home to more than 1500 students.

For more information, visit www.belmontabbeycollege.edu.