



**Belmont Abbey**  
COLLEGE

For more information contact:

Rolando Rivas

Director of Marketing & Communications

704-898-3084

rolandorivas@bac.edu

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### **The John C. Loughridge Center for Continuing & Professional Studies Honors Generosity of Belmont Abbey College Alum**

BELMONT, N.C. (April 11, 2017) – Belmont Abbey College is happy to announce the renaming of the Center for Continuing & Professional Studies, located at its Sacred Heart campus, to the John C. Loughridge Center for Continuing & Professional Studies. Loughridge, a 1957 alum of Belmont Abbey College studied as a “Day Hop”– the term used during the 1950s for commuter students–now lends his support to the center that focuses on serving students 23+ seeking to complete their degree.

Loughridge is a lifetime resident of Gastonia, with his family owning the Loughridge Motor Company, located on East Franklin Avenue, which in his youth sold new Buicks and used cars. Mr. Loughridge also has a long history with the college and the Sisters of Mercy, having received his elementary school education from the Sisters at St. Michael’s Catholic School in a five-room house in Gastonia. He continued on to middle school with them at what is now the Sacred Heart Campus the home for the college’s center that bears his name.

Upon graduation from the Abbey with a Bachelor’s degree in Business Administration and a minor in Sociology, John started his life of service to his community, church, state, and country. He enlisted in the U.S. Army and after his honorable discharge, John worked more than 40 years as a public servant as a North Carolina probation officer, where he had a tremendous, positive impact on those he served.

With his retirement from public service, John received the Long Leaf Pine Citation, one of the most prestigious awards conferred by the Governor of North Carolina. The Governor selects persons for their exemplary service to the State of North Carolina and their communities that is above and beyond the call of duty and has made significant impact to strengthen North Carolina.

In continuing to serve those around him, Loughridge pays special attention to his alma mater, Belmont Abbey College. Because of his generosity, and love for the Abbey, the college is very pleased to give our sincere thanks to John by honoring him with the John C. Loughridge Center for Continuing & Professional Studies.

Belmont Abbey College is a private, Catholic, liberal arts institution founded by Benedictine monks in 1876. 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](http://www.belmontabbeycollege.edu) or [www.abbeyathletics.com](http://www.abbeyathletics.com).