



2025 Durstan R McDonald Teaching Award
Dr. Patricia A. Hayes

Visionary. Consensus builder. Leader. Role model. Yours is a legacy of transformation, inspiration, and influential growth. Your commitment to public education, higher education, healthcare, and the greater community is breathtaking in its scope.

After receiving your bachelor's degree in English from the College of St. Rose in Albany, NY, you earned a Ph.D. in Philosophy from Georgetown University in 1974. In 1980, you attended Harvard's Institute for Educational Management. Throughout your studies, your identity as a student was partnered with your vocation as a teacher. A high school teacher during your time as an undergraduate, you served as an instructor of philosophy at your alma mater. It was there at the College of St. Rose that you were lured from the classroom into among the most critical areas of higher education: administration. Hired first as a director of admissions, you were named vice-president for administration and finance in 1981. Your excellence in these roles caught the attention of a small but historic Catholic liberal arts school in Austin, TX: St. Edward's University.

You were named President of St. Edward's in 1984 - the first woman and second lay person to hold that post. Your hire began a season of ascent for the school that has lasted well beyond your departure in 1998. You strengthened the university financially with strategic and effective fundraising, and built forward-thinking partnerships with area institutions. You oversaw the renovation of Sorin Hall and the restoration of the Main Building at St. Edward's, reviving the beloved south Austin landmark. Under your leadership, the university built the Recreation and Convocation Center and campus apartments, renovated numerous buildings, and completed the Ragsdale Center and Plaza.

In 1990, you elevated the visibility of your university to new heights when you brought the Dallas Cowboys to St. Edward's University for their preseason training camp for most of the 1990s. In 1993, Governor Ann Richards famously said, "St. Edward's has been around for more than 100 years, but it took Pat Hayes to put it on the map."

After your tenure at St. Edward's, you became senior vice president for community development at the Seton Healthcare Network, now known as Ascension Health. During this time and in your roles as chief operating officer and interim CEO, you pioneered many of the programs in place that improve services to the uninsured. You led the Indigent Care Collaboration, a united effort of a dozen community healthcare providers working toward this goal, and you have played a key role in efforts to secure healthcare financing for the underserved in Travis County. A 2006 article in *Austin Woman* celebrating the end of your tenure at Seton said, "The organizations and projects Hayes has championed read like a public service directory for the Central Texas region: Dell Children's Medical Center, KLRU, United Way Capital Area, Health Alliance for Austin Musicians, National Commission on Migrant Education, Central Texas Citizens Education Project, Mayor's Commission on Social Equity. The list goes on and on."

Also too lengthy to list are the many awards and honors you have received. You have been named Austinite of the Year by the Chamber of Commerce, and in 2022, you were recognized with an honorary doctoral degree from St. Edward's University. Alongside your inspirational record of institution building, the quality that may impress the most is your commitment to those around you and your investment in their happiness and growth. Your longtime friend, Eugene Sepulveda, said, "Pat was a mentor to me in my late 20s and early 30s. Much of my wisdom and patience, and certainly all of my humility, was at her direction."

In gratitude for this meaningful legacy of educational impact and commitment to the communities you serve, the Faculty of Seminary of the Southwest presents you with the 2025 Durstan R. McDonald Teaching Award.