



Preparing people to lead extraordinary lives

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 27, 2022

Contact: Emily Reiher
Director, WLA
773.508.8837
WLArchives@LUC.edu

**Women and Leadership Archives at Loyola University Chicago
to Digitize Mundelein College Materials with Illinois History Digital Imaging Grant**

CHICAGO, April 27, 2022: The Women and Leadership Archives (WLA) at Loyola University Chicago received an Illinois History Digital Imaging grant of \$84,000 for the Mundelein at 90 digitization project.

The Mundelein at 90 digitization project will support digitization and online access to unique historical records previously only available in person at the Women and Leadership Archives. Items will be available through the Illinois Digital Archives.

The Secretary of State and Illinois State Library administers the Illinois History Digital Imaging grant program which provides funding for eligible libraries to carry out projects involving the digitization and provision of web access to their important historical and cultural collections. Digital Imaging grants support the creation of digital collections while expanding access to those collections through the Illinois Digital Archives, a repository for digital collections of the Illinois State Library as well as other libraries and cultural institutions in the State of Illinois.

Constructed mere days after the stock market crash of 1929, enrollment numbers for Mundelein College were beyond initial expectations, despite obvious hardships. This indomitable spirit as well as a dedication to social justice would remain constants at this new college, which was founded and operated by the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary (BVMs). The history of Mundelein College, the last private, independent, Catholic women's college in Illinois, continues to intrigue alumni, genealogists, history buffs, and architectural historians alike.

The grant project includes the hiring of student Digitization and Metadata Assistants who will scan and create metadata for photos in the Mundelein College Photograph Collection. This collection of over 2,000 folders contains photographs of Mundelein College's students, faculty, architecture, and special events, only a fraction of which have been digitized. These photographs document the many changes in women's education, Catholicism, and American culture throughout the school's over 60-year history.

An archival digitization vendor will also digitize a selection of scrapbooks, student publications, and other unique materials from the Mundelein College Records. These items, which contain photographs, writings, and artwork created by Mundelein students, require additional care and expertise in the

scanning process due to their fragile and complex nature. These digitized materials will be available on the Illinois Digital Archives later this year.

The WLA will share the progress of the project on the archives' website and through posts on Facebook. A video detailing how to view the items online will be shared on the WLA's YouTube channel at the end of the project in summer 2023.

About Women and Leadership Archives at Loyola University Chicago

Established in 1994, the WLA collects, preserves, and makes available permanently valuable records of women and women's organizations, which document women's lives, roles, and contributions. The WLA grew out of the need to care for the records of Mundelein College and expanded to collect papers of women leaders and women's organizations. Mundelein at 90 directly supports the WLA's mission to make these records available.

For updates on the Mundelein at 90 project, visit [LUC.edu/WLA/Mundeleinat90](https://luc.edu/WLA/Mundeleinat90) or follow Women and Leadership Archives on Facebook. For more inquiries about the grant, please contact us at WLArchives@LUC.edu.