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For Immediate Release

**UNIVERSITY OF SAINT JOSEPH TO HOST FIRST MAJOR EVENT IN CONNECTICUT
CELEBRATING 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE**

Secretary of the State Denise Merrill, Historian Tracey Wilson, Activist Brittney Yancy, and USJ Undergraduate and Obama Foundation Leadership Corps Member Aya Cruz Lead Panel

WEST HARTFORD, CT (Jan. 15, 2020) – In celebration of the centennial anniversary of the right of women to vote in elections, the University of Saint Joseph (USJ) will host a special informative and interactive discussion with noted women leaders who will discuss the progress of women in the electorate and their position in the political landscape today.

Voices of Women in CT Leadership: A Celebration of the Centennial Anniversary of Women's Suffrage will be held on Monday, Jan. 27, beginning at 5 p.m. at USJ's Hoffman Auditorium in the Bruyette Athenaeum. Hosted by USJ's Women's Leadership Center, and made possible by The Hartford, the event is free and open to the public. Registration is required at usj.edu/wlc.

"We are thrilled to honor the centennial celebration of women's suffrage with such a distinguished panel of leaders, all of whom are playing integral roles in politics, education, and activism. They represent how far women have come and are fighting daily to achieve even greater representation for women in our democracy," said Rhona Free, president of the University of Saint Joseph.

Secretary of the State Denise Merrill will provide an overview of the past, present, and future of women's suffrage in Connecticut, then will lead a panel discussion including West Hartford Town Historian Tracey Wilson; educator, historian, and activist Brittney Yancy; and USJ student Aya Cruz.

Cruz is a resident of Hartford and first-year student majoring in English at USJ. She is an Obama Foundation Community Leadership Corps Member, community volunteer, and activist.

The panel will be moderated by Molly Griffin, assistant director, Government Affairs at The Hartford.

The 100th anniversary of Women's Suffrage celebrates the 19th amendment, which was passed by Congress on June 4, 1919 and ratified on Aug. 18, 1920, granting women the right to vote.

The Women's Leadership Center (WLC) at the University of Saint Joseph provides multi-generational experiences within a diverse community by building a collaborative, inclusive, value-based environment in which individuals develop new and enhance existing leadership skills. The WLC offers educational programs, including professional and executive education, supports research related to women's leadership, and promotes mentorship and sponsorship programs.

The University of Saint Joseph offers a wide range of coeducational undergraduate, graduate, doctoral, and certificate programs that combine a professional and liberal arts education with opportunities for mentored research, community service, clinical field work, and internships. Programs are taught on the University's two campuses in West Hartford and Hartford, Connecticut; at off-campus locations throughout the state; and online. Founded in 1932 by the Sisters of Mercy, the University of Saint Joseph offers degrees with value and values. To learn more, view our website at <http://www.usj.edu>.

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