

October 18, 2006

Dear Cathy,

I would like to thank you for the outstanding programs that you have presented at Barry University. I have brought many speakers to campus over the past 14 years that I have been the Director of Health Services, but few have had the impact on the students the way you have.

The issues you discuss are difficult to internalize, especially when you are a healthy 19 year old college student with your entire life before you. HIV is a virus that this generation has lived with their entire existence. They stereotype who will be affected and they certainly do not think it will be them. The fear of contracting HIV has been diminished and college students continue to gamble with their lives by exhibiting high risk behavior. They cannot comprehend the struggles a person goes through or how it impacts an entire family, until they meet you.

Your story is incredibly poignant, yet you always bring a smile and a positive attitude to campus. You not only demonstrate how to live with AIDS, you show this generation of young adults how to face adversities of life with strength, courage and grace.

We are very fortunate to consider you a friend of Barry University. I thank you again on behalf of the entire Barry Community for the contributions you have made to educate our nation on the realities of HIV and AIDS.

Sincerely,



Eileen Hinline, RN-C, MSHA  
Director, Student Health Center

