WHEREAS Katherine was born in Des Moines, Iowa; graduated from the University of Wisconsin in 1918; and, after moving to Southwestern Pennsylvania, was active in civic and cultural organizations;

WHEREAS she founded the Katherine Mabis McKenna Foundation in 1969, in memory of her son, Mennel, and devoted much of her later years to enhancing the quality of life in Southwestern Pennsylvania;

WHEREAS the Katherine Mabis McKenna Foundation continues to embody her giving spirit and support her civic, cultural, and educational interests and has provided assistance to a wide range of innovative programs in education, the arts, historical and environmental conservation, human services, and community and economic development;

WHEREAS the gifts of the Katherine Mabis McKenna Foundation have exemplified the McKenna family’s belief in the University of Pittsburgh and support of the aspirations of our students, particularly gifts to the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg, which were used to upgrade and improve technology and resources in Smith Hall and in residence halls across the Greensburg campus, and to build and later expand McKenna Hall—including its Computer Center, fine arts classrooms, and music practice rooms;

WHEREAS the gifts of the Katherine Mabis McKenna Foundation have helped the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg address economic growth and revitalization through the Smart Growth Partnership;

Now, therefore, in recognition of the extraordinary generosity and commitment provided to the University of Pittsburgh, I hereby induct Katherine Mabis McKenna, posthumously, into the Cathedral of Learning Society.

Presented by
Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg,
the 29th day of June 2007

The Cathedral of Learning is the most widely recognized symbol of the University of Pittsburgh, representing the University’s highest aspirations and serving as an enduring monument to the spirit of philanthropy.

The Cathedral of Learning Society pays tribute to those outstanding individuals whose remarkable leadership support inspires others to recognize the transforming power of knowledge. Induction into the Cathedral of Learning Society is among the highest honors that the University bestows.