



# HILLSDALE COLLEGE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Hillsdale College Alumnus Nominated As U.S. Ambassador to Fiji**

*Graduate Joseph Cella would serve as representative to Pacific Island nations*

Hillsdale, Mich. – Hillsdale College congratulates alumnus Joseph Cella on his nomination by President Donald Trump to serve as U.S. ambassador to the Republic of Fiji, the Republic of Kiribati, the Republic of Nauru, and the Kingdoms of Tonga and Tuvalu.

“It’s always exciting to see a former Hillsdale student putting their education to use in service of their country,” said Ken Koopmans, executive director of career services at Hillsdale College. “We hope for a speedy confirmation of this nomination and wish Joe all the best in his new endeavor.”

Cella graduated from Hillsdale College in 1991. Since 2010, he has served as a principal at the Pontifex Consulting Group. He previously worked in a variety of political positions in Washington, including roles on the staff of Michigan Rep. Thad McCotter and senior adviser to the House Republican Steering Committee and Republican Policy Committee.

Cella also co-founded Catholic Vote, a Catholic advocacy organization with more than 700,000 members, and is a founder and board member of the National Catholic Prayer Breakfast. He was instrumental in conducting outreach to Catholics during Trump’s presidential campaign.

A native of Michigan, Cella grew up in Richmond before attending Hillsdale. He currently resides in Augusta Township near Ann Arbor. If confirmed by the U.S. Senate, Cella would serve as representative to several Pacific Island nations from the American embassy in Suva, Fiji.

**Hillsdale College** is an independent liberal arts college located in southern Michigan. Founded in 1844, the College has built a national reputation through its classical liberal arts core curriculum and its principled refusal to accept federal or state taxpayer subsidies, even indirectly in the form of student grants or loans. It also conducts an outreach effort promoting civil and religious liberty, including a free monthly speech digest, *Imprimis*, with a circulation of more than 3.7 million. For more information visit [hillsdale.edu](http://hillsdale.edu).

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