



DAEMEN

COLLEGE

A World of Opportunity

Office of the President

September 7, 2021

Daemen College
Students, Faculty and Staff

Dear Colleagues,

I hope you have had an enjoyable summer and are looking forward to an exciting and productive academic year.

I could not be more proud of how well our community has come together and navigated the last year and a half. Thanks to your diligence, we have been able to maintain a positivity rate of well under one half of one percent. We are also close to having 85% of our entire Amherst campus community vaccinated—an important milestone in further ensuring the safety of everyone on campus.

The *Chronicle of Higher Education* reports that nearly 800 colleges and universities are mandating COVID-19 vaccination. This has put a great deal of pressure on Daemen to follow their lead, but we have chosen not to do so. That being said, it is extremely important that as many of us as possible get fully vaccinated. This will help protect everyone, especially given the rise of the dangerous delta variant. If you have not yet gotten vaccinated, please consider doing so as soon as possible. Let's continue to work together to keep our Daemen family safe.

Lastly, I am also pleased to announce that once again we will offer additional time off around the winter holidays. The Amherst campus will be closed beginning December 24 and will re-open on January 3, 2022. We hope you will be able to enjoy some relaxation and quality time with family and friends.

I wish you well as you begin the semester and look forward to seeing everyone back on campus.

Cordially,

Gary A. Olson
President