



DAEMEN

COLLEGE

A World of Opportunity

Office of the President

September 16, 2019

Daemen College
Faculty and Staff

Dear Colleagues,

I hope your fall semester has started smoothly and that you are enjoying the wonderful Buffalo weather we have been experiencing. I am writing with a few updates.

I am pleased to report that at their meeting last week the Daemen Board of Trustees appointed a new trustee: Dr. Candace Johnson, President and CEO of Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center. Dr. Johnson is the first woman to serve as CEO and president of Roswell Park, where she is also the Wallace Family Chair in Translational Research and professor of oncology. I am confident that Dr. Johnson's expertise and strong presence in the community will be invaluable to advancing Daemen.

As you know, the college has experienced substantial momentum over the last several years, driven in part by our ambitious strategic plan and master plan. It is hard to believe that it is already time to begin drafting the next iteration of these two plans, both of which end in 2020. Toward that end, we have empaneled two steering committees to direct work on the new five-year plans. As is typical, these committees will empanel various sub-committees to work on specific parts of the plans and to solicit campus-wide input throughout the process. Sometime in the next week or two, you will receive communications from the two steering committee with details of the process. I hope you will agree to be part of these very important efforts to map out the college's aspirations for the future.

As I mentioned in my previous letter, our new student enrollment numbers are the best they have been in five years, and although we did lose more returning students than we had hoped to lose, our numbers have held and we have met or exceeded our budgeted enrollment goals for this academic year. Consequently, our definitive 2019-2020 budget supports the proposed salary increase, and the Board approved this budget at last week's meeting. I am pleased to confirm that faculty and staff will receive a well-deserved permanent 3% annual increase effective December 1.

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Also, next week we will be launching a national search for a new chief information officer. The committee will be chaired by Chief of Staff, Amanda Gross. You will be hearing more about this process in the weeks to come. You can help us thank Kelly Duran for all she has done as CIO by attending a reception in her honor on Tuesday, October 1 at 3:30 in Alumni Lounge.

Finally, I do hope you will participate in Daemen's annual Founders Celebration, two days of fun and special events. We kick off this annual celebration with the ceremonial ringing of Founders Bell with one ring to signify each decade since the college was founded in 1947. The ceremony will take place at 11 a.m. this coming Thursday in front of Rosary Hall. I, personally, am looking forward to the ceremonial grand opening of the most recent phase of our science laboratory renovations, which will be take place Thursday at 2:00. For more information on all of the other exciting events associated with this annual celebration, please visit our dedicated Founders website: www.daemen.edu/about/give-daemen/founders-celebration-events.

I look forward to seeing you at our Founders Celebration events later this week and at the State of the College Address on Thursday, September 26.

Cordially,

Gary A. Olson
President