



# DAEMEN

COLLEGE

**A World of Opportunity**

Office of the President

January 26, 2021

Daemen College  
Faculty and Staff

Dear Colleagues,

I am writing with some good news. As I have reported over the last several months, the Regents of New York State have been considering amending the definition of what constitutes a university in New York State. Many of you provided your input on this proposed change directly to the Regents, and I want to thank you for your advocacy. I also want to thank both the Faculty Senate for its support and advocacy as well as those of you who provided input to us about whether you thought Daemen should apply for a name change should the Regents approve the new definition.

The Regents received overwhelming support for the proposed version, and they have officially approved the definition change, effective today. The response that we received from those of you who responded to our request for feedback was also overwhelmingly positive.

In light of this substantial support, and at the approval and direction of the Daemen Board of Trustees, we have officially submitted a petition to amend the charter to change the name from Daemen College to Daemen University.

Let me recap what I wrote to you back in November. A longtime goal has been to change our name from Daemen College to Daemen University. In every state in the union except one—New York—we would have been able to have done this long ago, but our state tightly regulates which institutions can be called a university, based on an old and, frankly, academically questionable definition.

While we are, in fact, now eligible, we do not know if and when the New York State Education Department will approve our petition, but we do remain hopeful, since this would greatly benefit our institution.

That being said, we encourage everyone to think strategically when placing orders for Daemen-branded materials. Until we have definitive word from the state, we encourage you to order whenever possible items that only use the word *Daemen* and not *college* or to order limited numbers of items that use the word *college*.

I appreciate your support and assistance during this important process. A change in the college's name, should it come to fruition, would be a major milestone for Daemen.

Cordially,

Gary A. Olson  
President