



DAEMEN

COLLEGE

A World of Opportunity

Office of the President

September 18, 2018

Daemen College
Staff and Faculty

Dear Colleagues,

I hope your semester has begun smoothly and that you are ready for an exciting academic year.

As you know, when the Governor first announced his Excelsior free-tuition program, we predicted that the private colleges in New York would experience two difficult years before we could adjust and return to normalcy.

Last year was the first of the difficult years, and you already know about all the measures we took to curb spending and compensate for the loss of 95 students. We remained optimistic well into last year that we might be able to support a modest salary increase, but the budget was simply unable to support it.

Nonetheless, I am happy to say that our efforts to manage the crisis were successful. We ended the year with a balanced budget, and the college remains in good fiscal health.

This year is the second of the two difficult years, and I believe our proactive measures are again paying off. We adjusted our enrollment target numbers and launched aggressive recruitment efforts.

I am pleased to report that we are entering the new academic year having met our goals for graduate and transfer students and being only a handful below our target for new first-year students. While we will most certainly lose a number of students over the year through attrition, we believe we have averted another difficult year.

Consequently, we believe this budget will support a salary increase. I am pleased to announce that all faculty and staff will receive a permanent 3% annual increase effective December 1. We still believe that after this year, most private colleges in New York will emerge from the present fiscally challenging period and return to business as usual.

I look forward to seeing you at the State of the College Address on Tuesday, October 2.

Cordially,

Gary A. Olson
President