



Fairleigh Dickinson University

One in a series of communications from the president

President's Note - Thank You - December 21, 2022

Dear Members of the University Community,

As you know, FDU has been working very hard on a new strategic plan that will reimagine what our campuses look like and redefine the University. There is a clear imperative to respond to the many difficult challenges facing higher education and plan for the many variables that will continue to impact our landscape. The framework of the plan has been approved by the Board of Trustees and following some additional planning and analysis, the plan can be finalized over the next several months.

While I am very excited about many of the goals and initiatives that were identified during our planning process and I know that our plan will be successful, it has become apparent to me that the next stage of our evolution and the time periods outlined in the plan require a longer commitment from leadership than I am prepared to give at this stage of my career. And rather than finalize the plan, start executing the plan, and leave the completion of the plan to my successor, I believe it is in the best interests of the University that I pass the torch on now so that new leadership can shape the final pieces of the plan and then be prepared to fully execute the plan from the very beginning.

A good leader not only knows when to lead, but also when to step aside and let someone else lead, and for me that time has come. Therefore, I have decided to step down as president, effective at the end of this month, but will continue to be available to assist the Board of Trustees and the leadership of this great institution in every way possible.

Please understand that this was a very difficult decision, particularly after nearly 37 years of serving FDU in a number of different positions. I have dedicated my entire professional career to this University and to our students, and we have done many incredible things over the years including launching the largest campaign in University history, which recently surpassed \$90 million in cash and commitments on our way to a goal of \$125 million. I am

very proud of the difference we have made in our students' lives and the transformative impact of this great institution.

From my time in the classroom and as the director of the School of Psychology, from my work in international affairs and the launch of the Vancouver Campus, from my leadership in academic affairs as provost and then to the position of president, the many milestones and memories are a source of great pride and satisfaction for me.

I want to thank all those who have supported me through the years, especially our incredibly talented faculty and tremendously devoted staff, and of course our determined and inspired students and magnificent alumni. If I was fortunate enough to have made any contributions to the illustrious history of this great institution, it was due to your collaborative work and dedication. I am grateful for everything you have done for me and our institution.

Serving FDU as president has been the greatest privilege of my professional life. I know that this community will continue to honor the legacy of our past while building our momentum into the future. I am looking forward to seeing what will come next for FDU.

Fortiter et suaviter—go forward with courage and grace!

Forever yours in FDU,

Christopher A. Capuano, Ph.D.
President