

## Fairleigh Dickinson University President, 2016-2022 (Ret.)

Christopher A. Capuano, Ph.D.



Dr. Christopher A. Capuano became the University's eighth president on July 1, 2016 and retired on December 31, 2022. Dr. Capuano also previously held a series of other key leadership positions at the University over a period of more than 20 years, including University Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs (2011 to 2016), Vice Provost for International Affairs (2005 to 2011), and Director of the School of Psychology on the University's Metropolitan Campus (1995 to 2009).

During his presidency, the University underwent a comprehensive strategic planning process that led to significant developments, including the restructuring of colleges and schools, the creation of more centers of excellence, the establishment of a new strategic partnership model at the University's overseas campus in Wroxtton, England, and widespread recognition both for the University in general and for many of its outstanding programs—including becoming a top 50 university in the North region of the United States and reaching #14 in Best Value Schools in the North region (in the U.S. News & World Report's collegiate rankings). Moreover, as president Dr. Capuano was instrumental in launching and successfully advancing a

historic capital campaign, which raised more than \$90 million in cash and commitments to fund key projects and initiatives across the University, including significant improvements to facilities on each of its campuses and increased support for students—to name a few. Some examples included a beautiful new footbridge and numerous other improvements to signage, walkways, and the general landscape at the Metropolitan Campus, a new multisport athletic field and eight-lane track and a magnificent new baseball complex at the Florham Campus, expansion of the Vancouver Campus to include a second location to support new programming, and increased scholarship support for students—both merit- and need-based scholarship support. In addition, Dr. Capuano led the implementation of a major tuition reduction initiative that furthered the institution's longstanding goals of providing all students with greater access, affordability, and pathways toward upward social mobility. And, of course, Dr. Capuano led efforts to keep everyone safe during the COVID-19 pandemic, which adversely impacted institutions of higher education around the globe for several years.

As University Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Capuano provided important decision-making in forming a strong leadership team in the School of Pharmacy (now School of Pharmacy and Health Sciences), which resulted in consistent enrollment growth and full accreditation from the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education. In addition, he was instrumental in securing a large gift to support the University's Daniel and Martina Lewis Center for Healthcare Innovation and Technology, and he oversaw the expansion of the University's campus in Vancouver, Canada.

As Vice Provost for International Affairs, Dr. Capuano provided oversight of the University's Office of Global Partnerships and worked closely with the University's Office of Global Learning to facilitate study abroad and other international initiatives. Moreover, Dr. Capuano was instrumental in the establishment in 2007 and early development of the University's international campus in Vancouver, Canada, and served as Vancouver Campus Provost for a year during a critical transition period. The campus enrolled nearly 1,000 students who hailed from more than 50 countries and six continents at the time of his retirement in 2022.

As Director of the School of Psychology and a former doctoral faculty member in the University's Ph.D. Program in Clinical Psychology and Psy.D. Program in School Psychology, Dr. Capuano provided important leadership in developing the school into one of the largest and more prestigious schools at the University. His many accomplishments in this position included establishing the postdoctoral certificate program in clinical psychopharmacology and its transition to a postdoctoral Master of Science degree program—a program that has earned national recognition and is currently only one of just a few programs recognized by the American Psychological Association for postdoctoral training in clinical psychopharmacology. As a former faculty member and biopsychologist by training, Dr. Capuano introduced and taught key compulsory courses in both doctoral programs in the School of Psychology. His research included the design, implementation, and supervision of experiments in neuropsychopharmacology and health psychology.

Dr. Capuano earned his Ph.D. in biopsychology and two master's degrees from the Graduate and University Center of the City University of New York, as well as his B.S. in biological sciences from Purdue University.