

*"If you can look into the seeds of time, and say which grain will grow and which will not, speak then unto me." - William Shakespeare*

March 12, 2018

Dear Felician Community,

Since my last letter to you, we have witnessed and dealt with the vicious return of winter and its residual impact on our lives, namely loss of power, delays and closures, and treacherous travel conditions. I hope and pray that you and your families are all safe and well.

A week ago, our university community received the very sad and sudden news that Brother Gary Maciag passed away of Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. Most of you will remember Brother Gary served as a Special Assistant for several years at Felician where he lent his expertise in mission formation, by-laws, shared governance, and theatre productions. Yes, these seemingly disparate contributions provide just a glimpse into a wonderful person who contributed to our community and even presented at a Felician Services Leadership Conference in Chicago. May he rest in peace.

While Felician took its traditional "spring break" last week, our students, faculty and staff remained engaged in academic, community and athletic activities. In support of the Felician Sisters' missionary work, Dr. Kathleen Vito accompanied a group graduate students to Haiti this past week. Our Golden Falcons continued to compete on various courts and fields of play. On the lanes, the Felician women's bowling team placed 11<sup>th</sup> out of 17 teams at the Hawk Flight Invite for Crohn's and Colitis Awareness. Additionally, while all of you were preparing for the return of students this week; I wish to thank those of you who joined Steve and I as we marched in the inaugural Rutherford St. Patrick's Day Parade - just one example of the many ways we reach out and support our neighboring communities.





Hosted by the Independent College Fund of NJ (ICFNJ), Undergraduate Research Symposium offer students an opportunity to follow their interests and engage in independent research. For Felician biology major, Fernando Gomez (Class of 2018), it provided an opportunity to share his research on Ethylenediaminetetraacetic Acid (EDTA) as an inhibitor of alkaline phosphatase.

Alfred Castro, Ph.D., Associate Professor in the Department of Natural Sciences and I were in attendance at the symposium as Fernando shared his research project.

### **Bob Evans to Retire as Dean of the School of Business**

As you may have already heard from Felician's VP for Academic Affairs, Ed Ogle, the Dean of our School of Business, Bob Evans, will be retiring at the end of this semester. In echoing Dr. Ogle's words, I also thank Bob for growing the School of Business during the past two years - and especially recognize his efforts to increase the visibility of the business school among leading companies and professional organizations, providing more opportunities for our students

in the form of internships and employment. A search has immediately begun to identify and hire a new dean for the School of Business.

### **Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) Degree Program Ranked by US News and World Report**

Felician University's Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) degree program was ranked as one of the best online graduate nursing programs in the nation by U.S. News and World Report. Schools are ranked by the national publication according to their performance across a set of widely accepted indicators of excellence, including faculty credentials, student services and student engagement, among others.



In a press release announcing the ranking, Dr. Muriel Shore, Dean of our School of Nursing said, "Recognition by U.S. News and World Report within its annual rankings is a testament to our program's quality and commitment to the nursing profession. Felician prepares future healthcare practitioners, leaders and scholars, to lead change in transforming the health care delivery system, to improve the patient's experience of care, and advance the health of individuals and populations. Graduates are prepared to practice to the full extent of their education as leaders of, and full partners in the inter-professional team, improving the nation's healthcare workforce."

### **Partnership with NJ STEM Pathways Network**

Through the support of NJ Assemblyman Andrew Zwicker's office, the month of March is designated as New Jersey STEM Month, to celebrate New Jersey's commitment to excellence in science, technology, engineering, and math. In concert with NJ STEM Month and in partnership with NJ STEM Pathways Network, Felician will host three Cyber-Science Camps on Saturday March 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, and 31<sup>st</sup> on our Lodi campus. For the second consecutive year, AT&T has supported Felician's Saturday Cyber-Science Camps, which offer high school students typically underrepresented in STEM fields the exposure to these areas. The camps are designed to engage students' interests through explorations into educational and career opportunities, as well as hands-on laboratory experiences - guided by experts in their respective fields. The weekend camp program includes two morning sessions on Saturday. The first session provides hands-on learning in computer science, followed by a cyber technologies and cyber-crime lab experience. The afternoon session includes a natural sciences laboratory experience and an end-of-day debriefing. Breakfast and lunch are provided, along with transportation to and from the Lodi campus.

### MPCAC Upgrades Graduate Program in Counseling Psychology to Full 10-Year Accreditation

I am very pleased to report that Felician's graduate program in counseling psychology has been upgraded to a full, ten-year accreditation term by the Masters in Psychology and Counseling Accreditation Council (MPCAC). The program prepares students for a meaningful career with the ability to service diverse populations. Students learn to demonstrate awareness of ethical challenges, use technology and information to maintain the best practices in counseling, and show competence in individual counseling, family counseling, and organizational consultation and interventions.

### Meeting with Acting New Jersey Treasurer

In late February, a group of six presidents from independent Higher Education institutions in NJ met with the new Acting State Treasurer Elizabeth Maher Muoio and her staff in Trenton. This was an important meeting to engage on issues important to higher education. We all recognize our new governor's campaign promises and priorities and the significant challenges his new administration faces regarding the state budget. Of critical importance to our sector is the Tuition Assistance Grant (TAG) student aid program which is a cornerstone for providing access and opportunity to low- and moderate-income students in NJ to attend their school of choice within the state. Currently, 778 (56%) of our undergraduate students receive a TAG award. In total, these students are eligible to receive \$6.8m which is directly applied to their tuition account at Felician.

Our sector is carefully monitoring the Governor's promise to make county colleges "tuition free". Given the budget challenges, and the fact that low income students can already attend county college for "free" given current financial aid, the details on how this program will be implemented will determine the magnitude of the impact on institutions such as Felician University.

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### Media Perspectives on Higher Education

These past few months, the media has seemingly been producing daily articles regarding the challenges facing higher education. Last week, the *Wall Street Journal* published an article that compared two institutions identifying one as a winner and the other as a loser. Although Felician was not specifically referenced in the article, I asked Reema Negi Panwar, our Director of Institutional Research, to review the data points they featured in the article and provide similar data points for Felician. To gauge Felician University's key metrics as generally referenced in the WSJ article, ["U.S. Colleges Are Separating Into Winners and Losers"](#), please see data below.

After careful consideration of the data points presented from the Wall Street Journal, Felician University is on the right trajectory towards student success, therefore will be included in the **"Winner"** category for colleges.

1. Felician University enrolled 151 freshmen in Fall 2013. That number has doubled over last 5 years. In Fall 2017, 308 Freshmen students were enrolled.
2. Felician University graduates on average earn \$41,900 a year, 10 years after entering college (the median earning of former students who received federal financial aid, at 10 years after entering the school). The National median is \$ 34,300 a year, 10 years after entering college. (Source: College Scorecard)
3. The default rate on student loans is 6.5% for Felician University for FY 2014. The U.S. Department of Education National Cohort default rate was 11.5% for students who entered repayment between fiscal year 2013 and 2014.
4. Felician University added new undergraduate and graduate programs like Exercise Sport Science (BS), Computer Science 4 + 1 (BS), Psychology 4 + 2 (BA), Education ESL (MA), Computer Science (MS) and Counseling Psychology (Doctorate) within last two years.
5. Enrollment Management has increased out-of-state and overseas enrollment at Felician. 39 out-of-state students were enrolled in Fall 2017 compared to 20 out-of-state students in Fall 2014. 5 international students were enrolled in Fall 2017 compared to 3 international students in Fall 2014.

6. Felician University was Ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> among private institutions by Payscale.com in the state of New Jersey for 20-year net return on investment (ROI) on its 2017 College ROI Report: Best Value College list.
7. Felician University is ranked in the *top 12 percent* (72<sup>nd</sup> out of 578) among selective private colleges on overall mobility index. This measure reflects both access and outcomes, representing the likelihood that a student at Felician moved up two or more income quintiles.

### **MSCHE Re-Accreditation Process**

Felician University is entering its ten-year re-accreditation process. This accreditation is the cornerstone for an institution's eligibility to receive federal and state funding of any kind (student aid, research grants, etc.). As you may recall, in late February, Dr. Christy Faison from MSCHE had a pro-forma visit with Felician to meet with various constituencies including administration leadership and our self-study team of faculty and staff. Dr. Faison also met with trustees and held an open session with all faculty and staff.

**For your convenience, a review of MSCHE's new accreditation standards follow:**

### **Standard I Mission and Goals**

The institution's mission defines its purpose within the context of higher education, the students it serves, and what it intends to accomplish. The institution's stated goals are clearly linked to its mission and specify how the institution fulfills its mission.

### **Standard II Ethics and Integrity**

Ethics and integrity are central, indispensable, and defining hallmarks of effective higher education institutions. In all activities, whether internal or external, an institution must be faithful to its mission, honor its contracts and commitments, adhere to its policies, and represent itself truthfully.

### **Standard III Design and Delivery of the Student Learning Experience**

An institution provides students with learning experiences that are characterized by rigor and coherence of all program, certificate, and degree levels, regardless of instructional modality. All learning experiences, regardless of modality, program pace/schedule, level, and setting are consistent with higher education expectations.

### **Standard IV Support of the Student Experience**

Across all educational experiences, settings, levels, and instructional modalities, the institution recruits and admits students whose interests, abilities, experiences, and goals are congruent with its mission and educational offerings. The institution commits to student retention, persistence, completion, and success through a coherent and effective support system sustained by qualified professionals, which enhances the quality of the learning environment, contributes to the educational experience, and fosters student success.

### **Standard V Educational Effectiveness Assessment**

Assessment of student learning and achievement demonstrates that the institution's students have accomplished educational goals with their program of study, degree level, the institution's mission, and appropriate expectations for institutions of higher education.

### **Standard VI Planning, Resources, and Institutional Improvement**

The institution's planning processes, resources, and structures are aligned with each other and are sufficient to fulfill its mission and goals, to continuously assess and improve its programs and services, and to respond effectively to opportunities and challenges.

### **Standard VII Governance, Leadership, and Administration**

- The institution is governed and administered in a manner that allows it to realize its stated mission and goals in a way that effectively benefits the institution, its students, and the other constituencies it serves. Even when supported by or affiliated with governmental, corporate, religious, educational system, or other unaccredited organizations, the institution has education as its primary purpose, and it operates as an academic institution with appropriate autonomy.

### Upcoming Events and Programs

- Students at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School have called for a nationwide walk-out for 17 minutes at 10:00 a.m. on March 14 in remembrance of those who so tragically lost their lives. Students at Felician will have several options for taking part in the walkout including participation in brief interfaith prayer services at 1:00 p.m. in the Rutherford and Lodi dining halls. More detailed information will be provided by Sylvia McGeary, Executive Director for Mission Integration.
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- On March 15, our Adult and Graduate Program Open House will be held in the Castle at 8:00 p.m., where prospective students will meet with faculty and admissions staff members and learn about financial aid.
  - On March 19, I will be recognized by NJBIZ as one of the “Top 50 Women in New Jersey”. I wish to thank Scott Kobler, Esq. from McCarter English and the folks at Taft Communications for nominating me.
  - Join me as I provide an update on university matters and for the MSCHE study kickoff to take place on the afternoon of Wednesday, April 4 between 1:15 and 2:15pm in the Obal Lecture Hall.
  - Baccalaureate Mass will be held on Friday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at 7pm in the Lodi Campus, Sisters Chapel.
  - Commencement ceremonies on Saturday, May 19, 2018, The School of Arts and Sciences along with the School of Education will begin at 10:30am and the School of Nursing along with the School of Business will begin at 3:30pm. Both will be held on the Lodi Campus, in the Performing Arts Center (PAC).

Please check the University's website to stay current with upcoming events. I look forward to seeing and speaking with all of you as we resume classes next week.

Peace and All Good,



Anne M. Prisco, Ph.D.