

August 1, 2016

Dear Students, Alumni, Parents, Faculty, Staff and Friends,

Greetings from Neumann University. I write to inform you that Dr. Rosalie M. Mirenda, the University's beloved and longest-serving president, will retire on June 30, 2017. She became president in 1996 and is in her 21<sup>st</sup> year at the helm.

Dr. Mirenda has been a tireless advocate and savvy visionary for Neumann University while never taking her eye off its Catholic Franciscan identity. During her presidency, Neumann has grown from a commuter college of fewer than 900 students to a residential university of almost 3000. Under her leadership, annual and capital giving has increased, the campus has expanded from 14 to 68 acres, new academic programs have been added at the undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral levels, athletic teams have grown from 9 to 24, and state of the art residence halls were built to accommodate 700 students. She led the multi-year effort that culminated with Neumann achieving university status in April 2009. Just one month ago, the University received re-affirmation of its accreditation by Middle States Commission on Higher Education with commendation for its self-study process.

On behalf of the entire University Board of Trustees, I express my deep gratitude to Dr. Mirenda for her exceptional leadership of and unwavering devotion to Neumann University. We also recognize the incredible support and commitment of her husband, Tony.

The Board is in the process of formalizing the search process to select Dr. Mirenda's successor. I will oversee the search committee that will be representative of our trustees, alumni, the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia, faculty, staff, and students. This committee, to be co-led by two experienced trustees, will review and interview candidates who respond to our search and recommend finalist(s) to the Board of Trustees for final approval and recommendation to the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia for their affirmation.

Dr. Mirenda has prepared us for this moment of change and transition. We have an academically robust faculty and staff who are committed to student success, and a strategic plan to guide us through 2019. Her faith-based leadership and voice enhanced Neumann's commitment to its Catholic Franciscan mission, which is grounded in the belief that knowledge, while valuable in itself, is best used in the service of others. The guidance that she provided as we celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2015 underscored the Franciscan ideal that is Neumann's North Star: *In giving, we receive*.

We will certainly plan to celebrate Dr. Mirenda and her accomplishments. Until then, at this historic point in Neumann's history, please join me in saluting her extraordinary leadership and selfless devotion to our wonderful university. We unite in wishing her and Tony an abundance of God's blessings as they begin this next chapter in their lives.

Warm Regards,

James Delaney  
Chair, Board of Trustees  
Neumann University