



Dear students, faculty, staff, alumni, parents, and friends,

The success of the Fall Semester and the spring that awaits us, has been built on the strong traditions of the 156-year history of Dean. That history, and the Dean of today, is a vibrant and passionate campus community based in an exceptional commitment to student success. It is the reflection of an institutional Mission that fosters care and an unwavering belief in the ability of our faculty and staff to bring students to a place where they believe in themselves, and a bright future made possible by their Dean experience.

Dean has an entrepreneurial spirit that has and will continue to respond to the complexities of our day-to-day existence and to plan for a world of unknowns. The demands and burdens of our Covid existence have strengthened our resolve to understand and to prepare for a new world order. We have placed hope in our future and have weathered a vastly complex and sad time with unsurpassed resiliency and a vision for what tomorrow might look like for all of us.

It is an honor to lead an institution that gives opportunities to young people, to see the impact of a community of hope and determination --- a community that values every member. Knowing that you have opportunities resulting from your Dean experience gives you the ability to accomplish more, create more, and to see the world from different perspectives. You believe that you can be an extraordinary citizen of your new world. Every student is **The Dean Difference!**

When I was inaugurated twenty-seven years ago, students were the center of that ceremony. I am proud that throughout my presidency, students have remained the priority and have been the focus of all that we have accomplished together as a community.

After much prayer and reflection, I have come to the decision that it is time for me to conclude my time as president and to begin to walk a different path. A path that will afford Gerry and I the opportunity to visit with our son, to spend time with my sister and goddaughter, and to share new adventures with my dearest old friends. Family and friends have been a part of my Dean experience and made it possible for me to spend most of my waking hours caring for and worrying about Dean's present and future.

Therefore, I have shared with the Dean College Board of Trustees, that I will conclude my presidency on May 31, 2022, or earlier if a successor is appointed. As members of the Board of Trustees deliberate next steps, I am committed to leading us through the current admission cycle, to celebrating the success of this academic year, and to keeping us focused on delivering our current strategic goals to secure a strong and fiscally sound future for Dean.

I thank each of you for the honor of serving as the Dean College President.

I remain committed to advancing the Mission of Dean --- an extraordinary college made strong because of extraordinary people.

Paula

Dr. Paula M. Rooney
President