

November 7, 2016

Lucy Leske, Robert Luke, and Veena Abraham
Witt/Kieffer

Dear Ms. Leske, Mr. Luke, and Ms. Abraham,

Please accept this letter as my application for the position of President of Florida Gulf Coast University. The combination of skills I can bring to this position as an experienced CEO and educator would enable me to have a positive impact on the University and its stakeholders. I have a track record of successfully working with a variety of constituencies to add value and take organizations to a higher level. I am able to work effectively in academic, business, and community settings. The attached resume provides a summary of my skills and experiences related to this position including the following:

- A proven track record of leadership, including 14 years as a successful President and CEO of three different community banks;
- A Doctor of Science in Information Systems and Communications from Robert Morris University, MBA from The Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania with concentrations in Finance and Public Management, and MA in Mathematics from the University of Pittsburgh;
- More than nine years of successful experience in academia, with a demonstrated ability to work in an open and collaborative environment of shared governance;
- A passion for academic excellence with a strong commitment to teaching and student success as demonstrated by improvement in student academic and career outcomes at three universities, the latter two schools having large international and minority student populations;
- Extensive experience in strategic planning, change management, turnarounds, and financial management and budgeting;
- A proven track record of fundraising in both academic and non-academic settings, including universities and a variety of non-profits;
- An entrepreneurial approach in education and business as demonstrated by the creation of two entrepreneur centers and multiple new products and programs;

- A proven track record of team building and developing positive working relationships in diverse settings in higher education, business, and the community at large;
- A proven record of active involvement and engagement in events and activities on-campus and externally in the community;
- A strong commitment to student success as demonstrated by improved learning outcomes and high placement rates (over 90%);
- A track record of leadership in community and economic development; and
- Exceptional communication skills, including listening skills and an ability to communicate effectively with a wide variety of constituencies.

I am a strategic thinker and passionate leader who would bring a high level of integrity, a strong work ethic, a strong commitment to diversity and inclusion, and a proven set of leadership skills to this position. Thank you for your consideration and I welcome the chance to speak with you about this exciting opportunity.

Sincerely,

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