

KENNETH K. SAUNDERS, Ed.D.
42 Meister Blvd
Freeport, New York 11520
516-642-0325
skenuPenn@gmail.com

November 7, 2016

Dear Search Committee,

It is with great enthusiasm that I write to apply for the position of President of Florida Gulf Coast University. As the outgoing Executive Vice President of Nassau Community College, located in Garden City, New York, I bring an exceptional portfolio of experiences, and I believe I would be a great asset to Florida Gulf Coast University. For the past several years, I have served in the capacity of Executive Vice President and Acting President of Nassau Community College, which serves 23,000 of the finest young minds from Long Island and its surrounding communities, as well as those who have traditionally been underserved and who are in great need of educational support. I have been part of the principle leadership of an institution with a workforce of close to 5000 people, with an operating budget of \$214 million. Thus, I am poised to provide strong leadership to Florida Gulf Coast University and bring new and exciting initiatives and ideas in an atmosphere of collaborative engagement. I have received advanced training at some of the most highly regarded institutions, including my doctorate in Education, Higher Education Management and Leadership from the University of Pennsylvania, my Master's in Education from Howard University, and intense training at the Institute for Educational Management at Harvard University. Moreover, I bring years of experience, training, and community building.

As a senior administrator in higher education, I have excelled at a variety of leadership positions at several outstanding four and two-year educational institutions, including Illinois State University, Howard University, the University of Michigan-Flint, the State University of New York at Old Westbury, and Nassau Community College. In my work, I have developed and implemented strategic objectives integral to the management, capacity building and forward movement of an institution. I bring a focus on creating, growing and sustaining exceptional learning environments. I have honed skills that allow me to visualize, frame and articulate institutional ideas and issues within both a global and local context. I am able to offer big picture perspectives to key constituents in ways that are clear and concise, and as a consequence, can be acted upon in measurable ways. And my individual and collaborative leadership styles have been beneficial to institutions in terms of positive representation and imaging at local and regional levels. Related to this, I forge strong constructive relationships throughout a campus, and with surrounding communities, as well as with local and federal governing bodies.

I have worked to secure millions in capital improvement and grants in support of innovative academic initiatives. I have successfully negotiated contracts of employees in strenuous budgetary times, while providing a balanced budget. In my leadership capacity, I have been responsible for the strategic, academic, financial and administrative management of an

institution. I work to create a climate that is open to differences and collaborative in nature. In terms of young people specifically, I have worked to develop and support their intellectual, social, emotional and cultural growth, both at the structural and individual levels. Moreover, I have been committed to international initiatives, and most recently, I facilitated an international collaborative initiative with Al-Kafaàt University in Lebanon. Here, we shared best practices in the areas of teaching and student support services with a special emphasis on students with disabilities. For this work, I was named the Al-Kafaàt Fellow for 2015, and recognized with its insignia, the University's highest honor.

Over the years, I have strengthened my portfolio in several areas including faculty governance, development, and external relations. Recognizing the importance of strong advancement initiatives, I directed my doctoral studies in this area with a special focus on the development strategies of a long-standing and highly successful college president. From my vantage point, development will be critical in the advancement of all institutions of higher education especially in the current economic climate. As a Board member of the College's Foundation, I have worked with its staff on the development of effective advancement initiatives including, most recently, the Colleges' first fundraising gala. Along these lines, I have worked closely with the Alumni Association in an effort to build their infrastructure in a manner that will allow them to be more successful in their outreach. A critical component of this is a move to integrate the efforts of the Alumni Association with that of the Foundation.

Currently, there are changes in the world's learning systems – technology, student demographics, and teaching and learning modalities. These changes are occurring so fast that most administrations struggle to keep up. Furthermore, the landscape of today's education system is shifting on multiple fronts, requiring change agents with new insights and conceptual models responsive to these changes as well as those unforeseen. My experiences as an administrator and a faculty member working with both traditional and emergent student populations have afforded me an opportunity to cultivate a strong sensibility and responsiveness to the needs of *all* students. I believe that I possess strong skills along with a nuanced understanding on how the social, political and organizational structure of an institution influences the daily administration and management of it.

I am a man of deep integrity and decency, and I have respect and care for our future generations. It is with this conviction that I seek an institution like Florida Gulf Coast University, where I believe my strengths and talents can best be utilized in new and exciting ways.

I welcome the opportunity to further discuss my qualifications.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kenneth K. Saunders". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "K" and "S".

Dr. Kenneth K. Saunders

Enclosed: Curriculum Vitae