

Florida Gulf Coast University, Presidential Search

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Florida Gulf Coast University President Search
Drs. Lucy Leske, Robert Luke, and Veena Abraham
Witt/Kieffer Consultants
Email: FGCUPres@wittkieffer.com

Dear Drs. Leske, Luke, and Abraham, and Members of the President's Search Committee:

I am writing this letter with the hope of obtaining an interview for the position as the President of Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU). This letter will demonstrate my executive and senior level management experience within higher education. I have acquired academic skill sets in management science, technology, and scholarly research. My academic accomplishments include:

- An earned Doctorate in Computer Science, Professor of Computer Science, awarded "Teacher of the Year" in Mathematics and Computer Science, Department Chair, Dean, Assistant Director of Admissions, Registrar, and Director of Distance Learning.
- Proven skills in enrollment expansion, establishing corporate relations, fundraising, and promoting entrepreneurial thinking.
- Strategic planning; budgeting; philanthropy and successfully demonstrated skills in developing, implementing domestic and international partnerships to increase revenue options that attract academically promising students, faculty, and staff.
- Partnerships that included establishing accredited synchronous and asynchronous learning environments that address' workforce development needs.

I bring experience with some of the most stringent accrediting agencies, such as the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS), the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE), the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET), along with an understanding of Online learning and Massive Open Online Courses (MOOC). I am experienced in the development of market driven academic programs to increase student employment potential and faculty development awareness in the certifying of online teaching with *Sloan Consortium (Sloan-C)*. It is my understanding that the new national accreditation process requires regular critical reviews at the departmental level to ensure that undergraduates, graduate and professional students are navigating their curriculums effectively and their educational goals are being met to ensure graduation in a timely manner. In the past, I have been tasked with developing outcome based assessment programs to ensure educational goals are being met, by combining both achievements testing with embedded course assessment procedures. Thus, we are now able to make curricular and pedagogical changes which hold promise for enhancing student learning and advancing the reputation of our graduates.

During my 20+years as an Administrator, I have been a strong motivational leader and an advocate for a work friendly environment. As President of FGCU, I will create a stimulating

academic environment, while strengthening and implementing the institutions recently developed strategic plan by:

- Increasing financial resources in collaboration with building on current fund-raising efforts, identifying creative and innovative ways to increase student enrollment and revenue options and effectively overseeing the management of fiscal affairs, to ensure an equitable and effective allocation of resources, and the ability to obtain additional funds for the university as federal and state funding options decreased.
- Promoting an environment of trust, enthusiasm, participation, cooperation, and accountability by being accessible to all constituents within the university, the greater southwest region of Florida, with students, faculty, classified staff, Board of Trustees, donors, legislators, state higher education authorities, and external constituents to move Florida Gulf Coast University to greater levels of success and accomplishment.
- Maximizing the advantage of Florida Gulf Coast University's location in Fort Myers by demonstrating conflict resolution, while using collaborative leadership skills to build and implement beneficial financial support systems to promote partnerships between Florida Gulf Coast University, businesses, industry, other educational organizations, cultural entities, and civic organizations throughout our service area.
- Expanding Florida Gulf Coast University's prominence in higher education by rebuilding a strong organizational structure and academic programs that promote diversity and inclusion among students, faculty, and staff. Improving course instruction by promoting the use of technology; research and creative activities that bring a quality online educational program within reach of all. Injecting in-demand curricula (Computer Forensics, Emergency Management, and Cyber Security) that will improve employment potentials of graduates.

I bring experience, degrees, certifications and key contacts in the STEM area, Bioinformatics, Chemistry, Computer Science, Mathematics, Statistics, and Cyber-Technologies. This experience will give Florida Gulf Coast University the opportunity to validate its designation as a National Center of Academic Excellence by the National Security Agency and Department of Homeland Security, and the related private sector.

As President, I will establish a Cyber Security Incubator to promote enrollment expansion, corporate relations, fundraising, and entrepreneurial thinking. Cyber certifications like the "Certified Information Systems Security Professionals" (CISSP) and/or "Certified Ethical Hacking" (CEH) will be available to potential graduates. These certifications will make the students more attractive to employers. The Interdisciplinary Studies in Cyber Security will address computer forensics, information assurance, voter fraud, Malware, data breaches (Banking, Sales, and manufacturing), denial of service, phishing, and other cyber-attacks that are proliferating daily. A Cyber Security Incubator will address the Nation's Cyber security threats that are in the news daily; underscoring the need for technologist trained to recognize and deal with Cyber threats. The Nation needs to be prepared for all out Cyber-warfare; because of growing industrial espionage, theft of intellectual properties, and millions of Americans, who have certainly had their credit or debit card information stolen by overseas hackers.

“America’s economic prosperity is dependent on mastering Cyber Security and securing Cyberspace by maintaining a standardized open, interoperable, secure, and reliable Internet. America’s delicate cyber infrastructure continues to be at risk from threats in cyberspace and the theft of our intellectual properties. Although the threats are serious and they constantly evolve, I believe that if we address them effectively, we can ensure that the Internet remains an engine for economic growth and a platform for the free exchange of ideas,” President Obama.

I anxiously await the opportunity to work collaboratively in planning, strategizing, and establishing the next chapter of a strategic plan that will identify new initiatives for implementation that will introduce the university’s academic programs globally.

Finally, I bring superior interpersonal and communication skills to create, articulate and implement a shared strategic vision for the future. My commitment to diversity and implementing initiatives that improve graduation rates for minority and underrepresented students is a matter of record. I will motivate the faculty and staff to develop market driven academic programs to increase student employment potential and produce productive citizens. I am the Chairperson of a nonprofit based in Washington, NC that works with at-risk youth (regardless of race or sex). This position has afforded me the opportunity to learn “first-hand” about the socio-economics challenges within the county, state, and the World. The important role that FGCU can play in the future of the youth worldwide through the articulation agreement of dual enrollment while in high school, community colleges, or attending FGCU.

In closing, I would like to thank you, in advance, for considering my application. Education is an important part of my life. A quality education is the ultimate certification for students seeking employment in this globally competitive and knowledge-based economy. Hopefully, I have adequately conveyed my experience, qualifications, and interest in the position as President and will be afforded an interview to further discuss my qualifications and vision. I enclose a copy of my Curriculum Vita for your perusal and will be available for an interview as soon as possible.

Sincerely,



Walter Johnson, Jr., Ph.D.

Attachment: Curriculum Vita