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February 18, 2017

Florida Gulf Coast University
10501 FGCU Blvd. South
Fort Myers, FL 33965

Dear Colleagues:

I am writing in response to the posting of the presidential search advertisement for the next Florida Gulf Coast University President. I have desired to be a leader in higher education, and have worked towards the advancement of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) applications in academia and professional industry for over 30 years. I have held several leadership and research management roles in academia and with government organizations, as you will find listed in my curriculum vitae, and feel that I am at the right point to contribute as an influencer and role model. Please allow me to offer a brief background of my career.

After going through the requirements for this prestigious and responsible position, I realized that I fit the profile of the candidate you are looking for in many ways. I have completed nearly 32 years of working at the University of Akron. My first fourteen years consisted of being a professor of Applied Mathematics. In 1994, I initiated a unique program in Engineering Applied Mathematics, which crosses the barrier between mathematics and the engineering specialties. It is still recognized as a fundamental initiative across the country. I am still leading this Engineering Applied Math PhD program at Akron. In 1995, I obtained National Science Foundation (NSF) funding towards the development and installation of one of the first fiber-optic gigabit computerized networked campuses. I was awarded an Outstanding Researcher's Award by the University of Akron for this effort. Our campus served as a leader in the development of networked campuses and cities throughout the world.

In between these two appointments, I served as a Program Director of Applied Mathematics at the NSF for two years. While I was managing the Applied Math program at NSF, I also collaborated with the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA), to create a joint multi-disciplinary program that encompasses Engineering, Physics, and Mathematics for the development of thin-films prototyping and manufacturing. This program was very successful and many of the scientists that participated in this program, paved the way for the development of nanotechnology in later years.

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Upon returning from my NSF appointment, I was invited to apply for the College of Engineering, Associate Dean position. I served in this position for eight years. During this time, I promoted graduate education and research, research projects, especially among young faculty, and developed the engineering management master's degree program. I provided opportunities for interdisciplinary collaborative research across the university. We were able to hire many key, high profile, diverse, research faculty in the college of engineering.

In the more recent years, I have evolved my skills in teaching with a strong, sought out reputation. I enjoy seeing the students excel and achieve mastery of these challenging subjects. In 2010, I received an outstanding teacher award in the college of engineering.

I also started focusing on multi-disciplinary research in the areas of material science, renewable energy, and signal processing applications. Among these projects, the development of algorithms for solving a variety of partial differential equations as applied to physical systems, has been well noted. These algorithms are aimed towards the difficult problems of developing analog computing for faster computational speed, and wider internet bandwidths. NSF and DARPA have recently funded these research projects.

I have become quite interested in FGCU in the last several months. In fact, I was so curious about FGCU that during a family vacation over the Christmas holidays, I stopped over to take a tour of the campus. During our tour, we accidentally met a senior police officer, Steven M. Engle, who shared the entire history of the university with us. He marveled at how young FGCU was, and he was so excited about the path of its progress in such a short time. It would also be exciting for me to serve this university, and to see it reach an even higher potential. I have the energy, enthusiasm, dedication, and ambition to enhance the strategic planning and initiatives to lead FGCU to a new level of expertise in all disciplines. I would work with local, state, and national leaders to obtain funding and resources to execute highlighted projects in infrastructure and renewable energy. I understand the various disciplines within a university setting and can discern which programs would be worth pursuing and which are reaching maturation. I have been a part of two colleges in my tenure at two different universities and understand the importance of every discipline and structure of the university. No field is any less important than another. I have ideas on how to interconnect various areas of the university so that FGCU can become a leader in the fields of infrastructure and transportation (e.g. hyperloop initiative, high speed train enterprise), renewable energy efforts and resources related to the gulf coast environment. I would like to lead FGCU in the incorporation of two key departments, electrical and mechanical engineering. I can help to establish these departments with my prior experience and develop quality teaching and research faculty to advance the university.

I have experience with community leaders for providing support and opportunities for the university. I have dealt with the Ohio Board of Regents to renew our doctoral program in the

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college of engineering. I was instrumental in initiating a fair amount of industrial support for the college from companies such as General Electric Aviation, Lockheed Martin, and Timken. Given the authority of the FGCU president position, I am confident that I could learn the legislation of Florida and the gulf coast environment, to be able to leverage and influence interested parties to invest resources in FGCU initiatives.

Reflecting on some of my experience, I remember being at Cal Tech on a sabbatical in 1998. Cal Tech was at its start a basic technical college. Through the efforts of one of its first leaders, Robert Millikan (who was so humble that he only accepted the title of Chairman of the Executive Council), Cal Tech became one of the most prestigious, world renowned institutions. I believe in this kind of leadership, that leads by scholarship and high standards, by providing many research opportunities and by sincerely having the ambition for the students' and university's success.

I feel that I will be a good choice for this position, and I hope that the board of trustees, faculty and students would feel pleased to accept my humble service and contribution for the next era of history to be made at FGCU.

Thanks for your consideration.

Many Kind Regards,

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