



DAEMEN

COLLEGE

A World of Opportunity

Office of the President

July 31, 2017

Daemen College
Faculty and Staff

Dear Colleagues,

I hope that you are having a productive and restful summer. I am writing with another update.

As you know, the independent colleges in New York are in the process of assessing what effect the Excelsior “free-tuition” Program will have on student enrollment. Like many of these colleges, Daemen has taken a number of precautionary measures until we can be certain that the Excelsior Program has not had a serious adverse effect on this year’s enrollment. In my last letter to you, I outlined those measures.

I am happy to report that at this point in time, our student enrollment numbers are looking promising. Our first-year student total has reached our goal, and transfer and graduate numbers are tracking well. While enrollment numbers traditionally remain in flux throughout the summer, these are encouraging developments.

These enrollment numbers are based on the number of students who have paid non-refundable tuition deposits. In the past, we could be certain that most students who have paid deposits will in fact register in the fall; however, the Excelsior Program has introduced a great deal of uncertainty. The greatest fear of many private colleges is that a large number of deposited students will forego their deposits at the last minute in order to attend SUNY institutions.

As I mentioned in my last letter, we will not know anything for certain until October, but we are cautiously optimistic that we will in fact experience normal enrollment this year. I will continue to provide updates as appropriate.

While many in the college have worked tirelessly to ensure that we have a healthy class this year, special recognition is due to Dr. Mike Brogan and Academic Affairs, Bridget Niland and the Division of Athletics, and Frank Williams and Enrollment Management. They have worked diligently to bring in what appears to be a robust class of highly qualified students.

On an even more positive note, with the coming academic year, Daemen enters its 70th year as a college. To mark our 70th Anniversary, the college is planning a two-day festivity called Founders Celebration. You will be hearing more about Founders in the near future, and I hope you will help us honor and celebrate Daemen’s origin, history, and tradition of academic excellence. I look forward to seeing you at Founders Celebration during the first week of September.

Cordially,

Gary A. Olson
President