



# DAEMEN

COLLEGE

**A World of Opportunity**

Office of the President

August 30, 2018

Daemen College  
Faculty and Staff

Dear Colleagues,

I hope that you are having a productive and restful summer and are ready for an exciting new academic year.

As you know, over a year ago the Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities predicted that private colleges in New York would experience two difficult years—last year and the present year—while they adjusted to the state's new free-tuition program for public universities. Last year was indeed a difficult year for most private colleges in New York—including Daemen—and we are all braced for another challenging year.

I am happy to report that at this point in time, our student enrollment numbers are looking somewhat promising. We recognize that, as with many colleges, this year's entering class is smaller than in prior years; however, we anticipated this challenge, and we planned accordingly. Our first-year student total is only four away from our budget goal, and transfer and graduate numbers have exceeded our goals. While enrollment numbers traditionally remain in flux throughout the summer and these numbers could in fact erode, these are encouraging developments.

That being said, the challenge that Daemen faced last year was less with new students and more with an unexpected precipitous drop in returning students, who apparently left to enroll in state colleges. At present, we have no indication that this same scenario will play out this year.

As usual, we will not have a clear and definitive picture of our entire enrollment until October, but despite the prediction that this year will be difficult, we are cautiously optimistic that we will in fact experience relatively normal enrollment this year. I will continue to provide you with updates as appropriate.

On an even more positive note, I encourage you to join in the annual two-day Founders Celebration events scheduled for September 6 and 7. The festivities begin with the ringing of Founders Bell ceremony at 11:00 on Thursday, September 6. Please join Dr. Matt Ward, representing faculty, Dr. Lynda Cessario, representing faculty emeriti, and several other representatives to celebrate seventy-one years of academic excellence by striking the bell once for each of our seven decades.

I look forward to seeing you this Saturday at Convocation and next week at Founders Celebration.

Cordially,

Gary A. Olson  
President