MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the Presidential Search Committee, Empire State College

FROM: Kristina M. Johnson, Chancellor 🎓

DATE: October 10, 2018

SUBJECT: Charge to the Search Committee

It is my pleasure to work with you to identify the next president of Empire State College. With the challenging economy facing our students, a strong campus leader is more important than ever. It is absolutely critical that higher education prepare our students to meet today's workforce demands. SUNY's Empire State College is well-positioned to attract an outstanding pool of candidates.

SUNY has embraced a diversity policy that reinforces its role as a leader of diversity and inclusion in higher education. It is critical that this search committee recruit a highly diverse group of candidates with the personal and professional qualifications to fill this position. This is why the diversity of our presidents in both culture and experience is a major priority for me.

We are committed to expanding on SUNY's impact to ensure that we move the university forward as a national leader in higher education and a major driver of economic revitalization in New York State. I increasingly look to our campus presidents to work collaboratively with other SUNY colleges, administrators, faculty and staff, and surrounding communities to lower cost, enhance productivity, and elevate the value of degrees granted at each of our institutions. Presidential leadership is critical in demonstrating our excellence, and regular presidential reviews will help us monitor our progress.

As chief administrative officer of Empire State College, the president will be a scholar and a leader who commands the respect of the academic community and is responsible for all aspects of the College. The president works in collaboration with internal and external constituencies to achieve institutional goals. The president represents the campus' interests within the SUNY System, and with local, state and federal elected officials. The president has the lead role in fundraising, institutional development and community relations. The president's broad areas of responsibility include working with Empire State's College Council; developing a shared vision for Empire State College in the mid-21st century including the role of digitization, individualized education, research and innovation as well as sustainability and promoting partnerships, the four themes of SUNY under my administration, overseeing academic affairs, which encompasses development and support of the curriculum; overseeing and maintaining facilities; fundraising and communicating the image of the college; engaging the community whenever necessary; managing the finances of the institution; and resolving issues of student life. And I expect all campus presidents to work collaboratively.
I ask the search committee to be very intentional in identifying candidates with the experience and skills to lead such efforts. This list is by no means exhaustive, and additional responsibilities are detailed in a job description. Empire State College’s top three candidates will be sent to me for review, and I will recommend one candidate to the SUNY Board of Trustees. The successful candidate will be appointed by the SUNY Board of Trustees. As Chancellor, the selection of campus presidents is of utmost importance to me. I greatly rely on their leadership and counsel, and their support helps strengthen the effectiveness of my role as system head.

I want to extend a special thank you to Dr. Mitchell Nesler, for his outstanding leadership as Officer in Charge. I also want to extend a special thank you to James Lytle for his dedicated leadership as chair of Empire State College Council and search committee. In addition, I would like to share with you that Mr. Joseph Porter, Senior Vice Chancellor for Executive Leadership and Employee Development, will serve as my liaison to the committee. He, along with his colleague, Ms. Zulaika Rodriguez, Director of Presidential Recruitment and Evaluation, will work directly with the council, search committee, and search firm to help recruit an outstanding leader. I have every confidence in this search process and stand ready to assist in any way I can.

This is an exciting time for Empire State College, The State University of New York, and New York State as a whole. I look forward to working with you all to recruit a top-notch candidate, ensure a smooth transition for the next leader, and elevate the college to the next level.