

April 21, 2015

Dean Pappas, Chair, Board of Trustees
Board of Trustees, Stockton University

Dear Chair Pappas and Trustees:

In follow-up to my discussion with Board leadership, this will confirm my notice of resignation as President of Stockton University, which shall become effective at a mutually agreed upon date after August 31, 2015. It has been my pleasure to serve as President since June 23, 2003. This flexibility of timing enables the Trustees to determine when a new or interim President can be in place to best serve the University. I am pleased to work with the Board in facilitating a transition agreement which will address the particulars of my final days as President (including my one-year leave upon the conclusion of my presidency) and successful transition of the leadership of the University.

There are several factors involved in making this decision, which include past and present health considerations and the demands I expect of myself from the office.

I agreed to remain as President this past year in large part to build the Island Campus in Atlantic City and to complete the Stockton Aviation Research and Technology Park (SARTP) agreements. I leave the University well-positioned, with an excellent Director of SARTP who can complete the agreements and launch the research park. I remain optimistic for the success of the Island Campus in spite of the challenges currently faced. Few universities have the prospect of building a large campus at low cost in an urban setting that is in great need of stability and opportunity. The commitment to the public mission of our university and to diversity and inclusion are part of the reasons for trying to advance higher education in Atlantic City. The additional academic and research space as well as public/private partnerships will be difficult to duplicate in any other setting. Even if we do turn away from the Island Campus, I hope Stockton will continue to support its programs in Atlantic City while serving a diverse population and providing educational opportunities, professional development, and economic stability where it is greatly needed.

Living a life that is worthwhile has always been my goal. Turning away from an opportunity that could make a major difference in the revitalization of Atlantic City and for Stockton University makes the presidency less worthwhile to me, and fortunately I am in a position where leaving the presidency and continuing my scholarship are worthwhile.

Stockton has made considerable progress in quality, growth, and rankings since 2003. More importantly, the excellent education and opportunities offered to our students have improved considerably. Stockton is one of the highest ranked public masters' universities in the nation and recently was ranked among the top up-and-coming universities in the North. All these accomplishments are the result of a team effort by many people working together within our university and community. I am pleased to have been a part of these accomplishments and of a team with exceptional talent.

Dot and I serve on numerous nonprofit boards locally and in the state and nation. I have the honor of having chaired two national committees for higher education, and Dot and I have been humbled by recognitions and awards from several of these organizations. The support of our leaders in state government is strong. Through our partnerships with local, state, and national leaders and constituents, Stockton should continue to move forward at a remarkable pace.

Our successful comprehensive campaign is completed, and a new president will prepare and carry out our next campaign. We have laid the foundation for the next campaign, and I look forward to its success.

Please know how much Dot and I appreciate the leadership of the Board of Trustees, the many accomplishments of our students, and the teaching, research and service of our faculty and staff.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "H. Saatkamp, Jr.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Herman J. Saatkamp, Jr.
President (2003-2015)
Stockton University