

## **Gloria Pinza's Remarks**

Good morning everyone and welcome to the University of New England. For those who don't know me, my name is Gloria Pinza, and since last May I have had the pleasure of chairing the search committee that has brought to campus the gentleman we will be introducing momentarily as the next president of UNE.

From the very beginning of this process, the other committee members and I knew the task before us presented no small challenge. Having watched UNE grow and flourish in so many

ways over the course of the past decade under the incredible leadership of President Danielle Ripich, we recognized that her successor would have to be extraordinary both in terms of professional qualifications and personal attributes. In short, we knew the next leader of UNE would have big shoes to fill.

As our work began, we solicited input from UNE's faculty, administrators, staff, alumni, donors, and students to get their vision for UNE and understand the qualities the university

community thought would be most essential in our next leader.

With the excellent assistance of the executive recruiting firm Witt/Kieffer, we assembled and began sifting through a large pool of applications that came from men and women in academia and outside it.

We had many very accomplished candidates. But at the end of the day, one candidate stood out clearly from the others, leading the members of the search committee and UNE Board of Trustees to agree

unanimously that Dr. James Herbert is the right person to be the next president of the University of New England.

James brings an incredibly broad range of professional experiences to UNE. He has spent the past 15 years at Drexel University. Like UNE, Drexel has an innovative and entrepreneurial spirit and a strong presence in the health sciences combined with a commitment to liberal arts education. At Drexel, he has held a number of positions including Department Head, interim Provost and Senior

Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dean of the Graduate College, and Executive Vice Provost. He has worked closely with Drexel's president to execute strategic and operational initiatives involving fundraising, strategic planning, external partnerships, and major infrastructure projects. A scholar and clinical psychologist, he has published more than 170 works of scholarship in his field. His recent book on mindfulness and psychological acceptance in cognitive behavior therapy was endorsed by the Dalai Lama, and he is

internationally known for his writings on quackery and pseudoscience in mental health. Just as important, James is a delightful person who has demonstrated a tremendous work ethic, a warm and engaging personality, and a good sense of humor.

I can't wait for the larger UNE community to get to know James and his lovely wife Lynn Brandsma – who is a professional counselor educator.

I would be remiss at this point if I didn't acknowledge the other members of the search

committee. Representing the board of trustees, faculty, administration, and student body, this group worked tirelessly and collaboratively to find the best next leader for UNE. Thank you, Ellen Beaulieu, Lane Clark, Shelley Cohen Konrad, Jessica Colpoys, Cleve Gilmore, Gavin Kuns, Robert McAfee, Dan McCormack, David Mokler, Cynthia Taylor, and Board Chair David Anderson, who acted in an advisory capacity.

All of us look forward to doing whatever we can over the coming months to make sure James and Lynn feel welcome at UNE.

It is now my pleasure to introduce UNE President Danielle Ripich, who, since her arrival in 2006, has overseen a period of unprecedented growth for the university. Her tenure has been marked by the openings of new colleges and centers, the launching of new academic programs and athletic teams, the construction of new buildings, and even the unveiling of a new campus in Tangiers, Morocco. Ladies and gentlemen... Danielle Ripich.