

GUILFORD COLLEGE

June 26, 2020

To the Guilford Community:

Attached are letters from each of us that hold some important news about Guilford College.

Sincerely,

Jane K. Fernandes
President

Edward Winslow III
Chair, Board of Trustees

GUILFORD

COLLEGE

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Dear colleagues and friends:

Today, I am announcing that after six years in the role of President of Guilford College, I have given the Board of Trustees notice that I will be stepping down and moving to a faculty position effective July 1, 2021. I have loved my time as President at Guilford, and I am proud of the things we have done together. It has been a great privilege to be a part of this community and to work with extraordinary faculty, dedicated staff, and promising students.

When I arrived, my top priorities were to increase student enrollment, revitalize our curricular and co-curricular endeavors, and take care of our residence halls in need of attention. Together, we have made significant advancements in all of these areas, and many others.

Over the past year and a half while dreaming about how I might create the next chapter of my career and life, I was considering stepping down, probably in 2022. Now with the increasing uncertainty of our altered reality that this pandemic is causing, I think it best to complete some of the hard decisions we need to make, assist the Board of Trustees with a transition, and allow another leader to envision and implement the structural adjustments in higher education that undoubtedly will follow this crisis.

I am grateful for the opportunity to have been a part of this community. It is always hard to know when to leave a job you love, but I am confident that this is the right time for me, my family, and for Guilford. I will work closely with the Board of Trustees to help with the transition.

With Respect and Gratitude,

Jane K. Fernandes

OFFICE *of the* PRESIDENT

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PROUD MEMBER OF *Colleges That Change Lives*

GUILFORD COLLEGE

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Dear Guilford Community:

As Jane Fernandes announces plans to transition out of her role at Guilford College, I want to express my gratitude and the gratitude of the Board of Trustees for Jane's many contributions to Guilford. During her years as President, Guilford has transformed to meet the needs of a new generation of students while remaining true to its almost 200 year heritage.

Jane's vision and values have led, challenged, and often inspired us. When she joined our community in 2014, a daunting array of needs and objectives were set before her. With Jane leading the way, together with the faculty, staff, students, and the support of other friends of the college, we have made exceptional progress including:

The Guilford Edge. An innovative academic calendar / three-week experiential term followed by a 12- week traditional term. The Edge Includes campus-wide spirit events and introduced the Guilford Guides, an innovative initiative in integrated advising, academic and career-focused education.

A Focus on Diversity and Inclusion. Among other things Jane led us to establish a new position for Vice President of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. During her tenure, enrollment increased in the Wiser Justice Program for incarcerated individuals. The Center for Principled Problem Solving was re-chartered and reinvigorated to add a focus on teaching excellence. A theme of ethical leadership skills was reinforced through experiential programs. Active efforts have been made to increase the participation of female athletes in varsity sports, including the development of the women's rugby and triathlon teams. And Jane personally took a leadership role in legal efforts on the part of the President's Alliance on Higher Education to protect the rights of international, DACA, and undocumented students to higher education.

Gains in Recruitment and Enrollment. Jane oversaw a marketing program that was launched in support of the Guilford Edge resulting in credible gains in students interested in Guilford, visiting, applying, being admitted, and enrolling. The increases at every point of the enrollment funnel led to larger first-year classes and transfer student growth.

Campus Improvements. The College experienced exciting change over the last six years. The dining hall was completely refreshed and now includes, among other things, organic produce from the College farm. Binford Hall, a residence hall built in the 1960's, was renovated, saving Tennessee marble showers, terrazzo floors, and Mount Airy granite steps. Milner Hall was also renovated to expose original walnut and to add an experimental kitchen with state of the art cooking instruments and equipment. At the point where passers-by cross between the academic

quad and a newly conceived student quad, Rachel's Rose Cottage was added to draw students into its welcoming coffee shop. A fireplace mantle was created from wood recovered from fallen Guilford trees. The Moon Room for Quaker Life was updated for worship, small classes, and meetings, and the Founder's Perennial Garden was established to honor the college's leaders.

President Fernandes' tenure has been a period of progress and bold leadership. She has found new ways forward that are firmly grounded in Guilford's noble and historic past rooted in our Quaker values. What has not changed is that Guilford remains a powerful advocate for liberal arts education, and it preserves the highest standards of intellectual excellence. And, Guilford is unique now, as it has been for 200 years, for bringing the benefits and values of a high-quality liberal arts education, based within the Quaker tradition, to diverse new communities of first-generation students, as well as traditional communities.

As Jane transitions to a new role, Guilford College is a transformed community centered on a unique values-based mission. Guilford graduates are going into a changing world, a world that badly needs the skills and values that Guilford students are uniquely prepared to provide.

We are grateful to President Fernandes for her steadfast commitment to Guilford and that mission. We look forward to building on her legacy.

Edward C. Winslow III, for the Board of Trustees
Guilford College