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Message from the President

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To the University Community:

Dr. Jean Bartels has shared with me and her colleagues that she plans to retire as Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs on June 30, 2017. Georgia Southern owes her a tremendous debt of gratitude for all that she has achieved since her arrival more than 17 years ago — and for the legacy she will leave behind.

She is a dedicated nurse, who spent years on staff in the Intensive Care Unit at Columbia Hospital in her native home of Milwaukee, Wisconsin. She later served as the chair of the Division of Nursing at Alverno College in Milwaukee from 1990-99 before coming to Georgia Southern.

Dr. Bartels served as a professor of nursing and as the chair of the School of Nursing from 1999-2010. There, she was instrumental in raising the standards and visibility of the University's nursing program. She later became the Dean of the College of Health and Human Sciences in 2010, and continued to improve the college and its programs.

In 2012, Dr. Bartels was asked to helm all of Georgia Southern's academic programs as the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs. During this time, the University greatly added to its capabilities and program offerings.

From 2015-16, Dr. Bartels became Interim President, making history as the first female president to ever serve at the University. During this time, she led Georgia Southern through an extensive SACSCOC reaccreditation process, after which the University was reaffirmed for accreditation with "no recommendations" until 2025 — a stellar accomplishment.

Throughout her tenure, Dr. Bartels has been an avid researcher and academician, focusing on the development and measurement of teaching, learning and assessment outcomes in nursing and higher education. She has written books, chapters and articles on a range of nursing concerns, and she has presented her findings at the American Association of Higher Education and the American Educational Research Association, as well as at nursing discipline conferences.

Dr. Bartels has served on a number of national nursing boards, was President of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing from 2004-06 and was a member of the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) Steering Committee that created the CCNE accrediting body. She currently serves as a CCNE site evaluator.

In 2009, Dr. Bartels was one of only 14 national recipients of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing Sister Bernadette Armiger Award in recognition of her significant contributions to nursing education and the advancement of the profession.

Dr. Bartels was such a welcoming presence to me as I assumed my role at Georgia Southern. I am sincerely excited for Jean and Terry as they enter this new phase of their lives. I hope you will join me in congratulating Dr. Bartels on her outstanding academic career and her upcoming retirement.

Sincerely,

Jaimie Hebert, Ph.D.
President