SUNY POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE

Grace Wang, Ph.D.
Interim President

July 29, 2019

To SUNY Poly Faculty, Staff, and Students:

Reflecting on the past academic year and our collective accomplishments, I am proud to highlight some of these successes and provide an update as we advance SUNY Poly's academic and research mission, and establish a framework for a sustainable future for our institution.

We continue to build impactful academic partnerships, including a "Path to Poly" articulation agreement with Mohawk Valley Community College, as well as similar programs with Herkimer County Community College and SUNY Schenectady County Community College that simplify the transfer process for students to earn degrees here. Additionally, partnerships with Rome Memorial Hospital and GlobalFoundries provide opportunities and flexibility for their employees to gain advanced career skills, and, with Albany Law School and the Research Foundation for SUNY, we launched an innovative experiential learning program where Albany Law and SUNY Poly students can collaboratively advance technology-focused projects.

SUNY Poly continues building government and industry partnerships to propel our regions forward. We are working closely with Mohawk Valley-based partners—the Air Force Research Laboratory Information Directorate and Griffiss Institute—on Quantum Information Science and Engineering and Artificial Intelligence R&D, to catalyze exciting 21st century research and career opportunities. We are also excited about IBM and Applied Materials' recent, respective $2 billion and $600 million investments to grow their high-tech footprint here.

We were also thrilled to support five SUNY Poly student-led teams who competed at the New York Business Plan Competition final, as well as our successful student spinoffs, including Eonix, which was recently selected to attend the "University Innovation and Entrepreneurship Showcase" on Capitol Hill.

We have broken ground on SUNY's first zero net carbon certified residence hall on our Utica campus, and, working with the University at Albany, new residence hall options will concurrently provide an improved student life experience for SUNY Poly's Albany campus-based students.

After many discussions with faculty, students, and staff during last academic year, and in consultation with the CNSE College Senate, we are moving forward on integrating the College of Nanoscale Sciences and the College of Nanoscale Engineering and Technology Innovation into a single College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering. We believe this move will develop a more synergistic academic ecosystem for our students and faculty and provide more robust education and research opportunities.

As we continue to consult with faculty, students, and staff under our shared governance model and look forward to forming a committee to further crystallize administrative search processes, I would like to share several academic leadership updates.

I am delighted Dr. J. Andre Melendez has accepted the position of Interim Dean of the College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering. He most recently served as interim Provost at SUNY

Oneonta and is Professor of Nanobioscience at SUNY Poly. Dr. Melendez has received numerous honors and awards in his career, including his selection as a 2018 Fellow-In-Residence at SUNY's Hispanic Leadership Institute.

I am also pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Michael Carpenter as the Interim Dean of the College of Engineering. A faculty member since 2002, Dr. Carpenter has served as Interim Dean of SUNY Poly's College of Nanoscale Engineering and Technology Innovation for more than two years. During this time, he worked with colleagues at CNSE and formed the SUNY Poly CNSE Industry Advisory Board, which catalyzed industry sponsored capstone projects, internship opportunities, and industry-faculty collaborations, in addition to assisting with curriculum review in preparation for the successful effort to secure ABET accreditation for the B.S. in Nanoscale Engineering program. Dr. Carpenter also led the development of the MSAT degree program in Semiconductor Processing and Nanomanufacturing Technology. I am confident he will be able to lead the College of Engineering into its next chapter as the College remains at the forefront of SUNY Poly's growth.

I would like to sincerely thank Dr. Andrew Wolfe for his leadership and for serving as the Interim Dean of the College of Engineering for more than 5 years, during which, among a number of other accomplishments, he oversaw the successful ABET accreditation of SUNY Poly's engineering and engineering technology programs and was integral to the launch of the Center for Global Advanced Manufacturing.

I am also pleased to share with you that Dr. Alain Diebold will transition from his role as College of Nanoscale Sciences Interim Dean to serve as Special Assistant to the President. Dr. Diebold will focus on mapping academic opportunities in student success and quantum information science and engineering, among others. I look forward to working with him in this exciting capacity and thank him for his leadership.

Notably, we continue to advance our *Framework for a Sustainable Future* effort. As I previously shared with you, this work aims to address all aspects of SUNY Poly's academic enterprise and related challenges to implement solutions for the long-term strength and viability of SUNY Poly.

With so much positive momentum, I want to share my gratitude for your efforts each day to make SUNY Poly such a special place for our students as we strengthen our communities. The good news highlighted here comprises only some of our accomplishments together, and I appreciate all you have done to set the stage for an even more exciting 2019-2020 academic year.

Sincerely,

Dr. Grace Wang
Interim President
SUNY Polytechnic Institute