

October 8, 2019

President William Ingram
Durham Technical Community College

Dear Bill,

Thank you for your letter informing me officially of your intention to step down as Durham Tech's president, effective June 30, 2020. I read your note with decidedly mixed emotions. On the one hand, I have known from your conversation in the summer of 2017 with Vice Chair Tara Fikes and me at the time we discussed your reappointment to a three-year term ending in 2020, that you intended this to be final term in office. On the other hand, seeing your letter in black and white is a real reminder how far the College has come under your steady guiding hand as President of the College. Your letter documents many of the important achievements Durham Tech has accomplished in service to our region and especially our students. Your leadership has surely been a constant for Durham Tech not only during your years as president but in your 13 years as the College's senior vice president and chief academic officer prior to your assumption of the presidency.

I suspect your natural tendency to avoid attention to yourself and to share credit with others meant that your letter does not adequately capture the degree to which your absolute commitment to the welfare of our students or the integrity and commitment to both progressive educational and social values that has defined your years as president and thereby the College itself. It does not capture the degree to which the College has managed through challenging economic times, especially 2008, and the vicissitudes of state funding to strengthen our financial underpinnings. It does not capture the degree to which you have been a valuable mentor to numerous students and staff members as they planned their future lives. And finally, it does not adequately capture your commitment to diversity and inclusion which are hall marks of this school. Everyone who cares about the Durham and Orange communities is in your debt.

In both your discussions with the Trustees and in your letter, you have identified the three areas—completing the next phase of Guided Pathways curriculum and organizational realignment, launching the construction of our new Applied Technology Building, and completing our Forge Great Futures campaign—that you intend to focus in the coming year. You have the strong support of the Board of Trustees in your plans to accomplish these three major institutional priorities.

Finally, I am grateful, as are the Trustees, that you are prepared to do what you can—besides already positioning the College well for a robust future—to help us recruit the very best next leader for Durham Tech. Over the next several weeks and months, the Trustees will appoint a search committee and consult widely both within the College and in our region as we identify the challenges and opportunities the College will face in the coming decade and the characteristics and experience we desire in a new leader for Durham Tech. Befitting this excellent institution, we will conduct a national search for your successor and will hope to have our work



completed by June 30, 2020. I am grateful for your willingness to serve a few months beyond that if we are delayed in any way in our selection process.

Bill, it is said that in life one should strive to leave our world and the communities and institutions we serve a better place. You have surely done that and it has been a privilege to work with you to make Durham Tech and our community a better place.

With appreciation and admiration,

Sincerely,

John F. Burness
Chair