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August 28, 2021

Dear Wayne Community College Presidential Search Committee,

I respectfully submit this letter of interest for the position of President of Wayne Community College. It is my belief that WCC is the finest of the 58 community colleges in North Carolina and I have had the privilege to work at this institution for nearly 27 years. I have been entrusted by the college's Board of Trustees to serve as Interim President since July 2021. Prior to this appointment, I served as the Vice President for Academic and Student Services; Chief of Staff and Vice President of Institutional Effectiveness; Dean of the Allied Health and Public Safety Division; Department Chair for Nursing; and nursing faculty member at Wayne Community College.

Prior to entering higher education, I served in the United States Army and worked as a Registered Nurse. I have earned a Doctorate of Education in Higher Education and Adult Learning from Walden University. I have also earned a Masters in Administration from Central Michigan University, a Master of Science in Nursing from East Carolina University, a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from East Carolina University, and an Associates in Applied Science, Associate Degree Nursing from Wayne Community College. I believe that my experience, education, and skills are an ideal match for this position and have prepared me well for the role of President of Wayne Community College.

Changes in leadership, whether planned or unanticipated, can lead to anxiety and uncertainty for all members of an organization. It is my goal to continue leading the college, as seamlessly as possible, through this period of transition, which includes recovery efforts as a result of the impact of a global pandemic. In addition, I am leading the college through its fifth-year interim report process with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC). Throughout my career at Wayne Community College, I have demonstrated a strong commitment for leading, supporting, and teaching the students the college serves.

In the position of Vice President for Academic and Student Services, I was responsible for multiple departments on campus including all curriculum programs; Workforce Continuing Education and Transitional Programs; and Institutional Effectiveness, as well as academic and student support services including the Academic Skills Center; Academic Testing Center; College Transfer Advising Center; Library; eLearning; the Career and College Promise Program for dual-enrolled high school students; Admissions and Records; Counseling Services; Financial Aid; Student Activities; Recruiting; and Career Services. Responsibilities included fiscal management, allocation of resources, the strategic planning process, and enrollment management.

I am thrilled to have been a part of so many initiatives in the past several years that have led to increased student success and local, state, and national recognition of those successes. For example, in 2019 Wayne Community College was an American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) award finalist in the categories of student success and outstanding college/corporate partnership. In 2020,

WCC received the AACC Student Success Award. This award recognized the college's efforts for redesigning academic programs and student support services to implement guided pathways that resulted in significant measurable improvements for student completion and increased employability skills. Student completion from 2012-2019 increased by 164% (2012 = 809 completions, 2018 = 2,136 completions) even while student headcount decreased by 14.8% (2012 = 5,176 students, 2019 = 4,412 students) for the same time period.

In 2020, the college was recognized as a finalist for a Bellwether Award for our Quest Academy, which serves higher-level English Language Acquisition students. The program supports ESL learners who are professionals in their country of origin by providing them with training to help assimilate them into their new community.

In 2021, WCC was recognized as an ASPEN Prize Top 150 community college. ASPEN is the nation's signature recognition of high achievement and performance among community colleges in America. The criterion for this accolade includes improving student outcomes in learning, completion rates, employment rates, and equity. Also in 2021, the college's Academic Skills Center became a National Tutoring Association-certified program and was named the 2021 Tutoring Program of the Year. WCC has also been recognized as a Military Friendly School for the eighth time and is one of only 18 colleges in the North Carolina Community College System to earn this recognition.

The strength of the college is directly related to the partnerships formed both internally and externally. Within the college, I have led and worked with multiple committees including the SACSCOC Leadership team, President's Council, Planning Council, Pandemic Response, Curriculum Committee, Calendar Committee, and the Quality Enhancement Plan development team.

My personal commitment within the community and nationally is evidenced by the various committees and boards I serve on including the Wayne County Chamber of Commerce Military Affairs Committee, Wayne Memorial Hospital Foundation Board, Partnership for Children Board of Directors, and the American Association of Community Colleges Commission on Small and Rural Colleges.

As a first-generation college graduate, I am keenly aware of the opportunities that a community college can provide to an individual. For myself and our family, it was a life changing opportunity. But more importantly, it has allowed me to experience the same struggles and barriers that many of our student's experience. This has not only strengthened my commitment to student success, but also allows me to relate to our students in ways others may not. I look forward to sharing my story and the ways I believe Wayne Community College can reach even greater levels of success.

I am confident that I possess the experience, insight, and skills needed to lead Wayne Community College through its next transition. It would be an honor to continue serving this college, the Board of Trustees, students, faculty, staff, and community members as your President. Thank you for considering me for the presidency of Wayne Community College.

Sincerely,



Dr. Patricia A. Pfeiffer