

March 17, 2021

Dear Colleagues,

One year ago today, just a week after suspending in-person instruction due to the global pandemic, Notre Dame announced my appointment as the incoming provost. I will be honest and say that St. Patrick's Day had never previously been a holiday that I paid much attention to, but the warm reception from the Notre Dame community that day has made it an important marker for me and my family.

March 17, 2020 was a time of great uncertainty for all of us, and the past year has been a wild ride. Despite the challenges posed by the pandemic, or perhaps because of them, working with you the past 12 months has taught me so much about leadership, persistence, and resilience. The challenges we faced together allowed me to get to know and work with many of you even before I officially started, and I witnessed you doing amazing things:

- Successfully repatriating more than 550 students, faculty, and staff members in just days
- Transitioning more than 2,700 unique courses to online instruction in two weeks
- Shifting the research focus of several laboratories to critical COVID-19 issues
- Providing masks, gloves, and face shields to community healthcare workers and first responders
- Adjusting to the challenges of dual delivery and teaching in physically distanced, masked environments
- Reconceiving strategies for advancing scholarship in the face of substantial constraints
- Establishing a certified saliva testing lab from scratch to meet our surveillance testing needs
- Holding the first-ever Winter Session to provide exploratory courses for students
- Supporting our students in a thousand new ways

I am so proud to have worked alongside such an inspiring group of faculty and staff.

Since arriving on campus in July, I've been on a mission to get to know as many of you as possible and learn about your work through meetings, open office hours, and by simply walking around. In those many conversations, I've tried to encourage thinking beyond our current situation, beyond COVID-19, toward our future vision for Notre Dame as a distinctive Catholic research university.

In the weeks and months ahead, I hope to meet many more of you in person to learn more about you, your work, and your aspirations for our University. In the meantime, I simply want you to know how thankful I am for all that you have done this past year. I am grateful on a daily basis for the opportunity to serve our wonderful University.

Happy St. Patrick's Day!

Marie Lynn Miranda
O'Provost

