



May 2, 2019

Dear Faculty:

Here we are at the close of another academic year and I want to have us all take a quick breath and consider, yet again, how far we have come this year. Our departments are 16 months old and in that time have become the glue that holds the academic enterprise together. Each department has a range of successes for the year and I encourage each department to take a moment to celebrate their accomplishments.

Graduation is on Sunday and we will formally congratulate over 250 students as they receive their degrees. Students receiving their degrees is the reason the university exists and each student has his or her own story about how they came here, their journey through Florida Poly, and what will be next for them. Sunday is their special day and all of us are excited for what the future holds for our new graduates.

For the year we have a range of important accomplishments for the institution. By far the most important is our ongoing **ABET** accreditation activity. We hosted site visits for Computer Engineering, Computer Science, Electrical Engineering, and Mechanical Engineering last fall. ABET accreditation has emerged for the engineering field as a minimum quality standard that must be achieved and many employers will only consider individuals from ABET accredited degree programs. As a STEM university with multiple degrees in engineering, acquiring ABET accreditation is very important to us. We can say that we are very hopeful for a positive outcome and that we will know if we achieve accreditation officially in August of 2019.

We also had two significant industry related events this spring. **Career Fair** was in February and over 400 students "mingled" with 55 companies in the commons. The **Capstone Design Showcase** was a mere two weeks ago; 215 students were there showcasing their industry-inspired projects that respond to over 30 companies. Finally, we have the necessary approval from the state to offer a degree in **Environmental Engineering** and we hope to receive similar approval for **Engineering Mathematics** and **Engineering Physics** in the coming weeks.

Looking back on the 2018-19 academic year, we can see that all of us have been busy and certainly from my perspective these accomplishments are all based on a strong team effort. Looking forward, I hope to continue to work together as a campus and continue to build this new, great university. As I said last year at this time, we all should be proud of how far we have come in a very short time.

Congratulations on a great year and I hope to see you at graduation. As always, thanks to all of you for all that you do.

All the Best!

Terry