



CHRISTOPHER NEWPORT UNIVERSITY

BOARD OF VISITORS

January 11, 2023

Dear University Community,

Captains, welcome home and back to campus after winter break! We missed you!

While I know many of you, there are some for whom I have not had the privilege to meet. I am the current Rector for the Board of Visitors. I am a proud Captain, class of 2001, and I am honored to be serving the Commonwealth of Virginia and my alma mater in this leadership role. It is an exciting time to help guide this vibrant University! Please know that your Board of Visitors understands the tremendous responsibility laid out before us in choosing the sixth president of our beloved institution.

Much work has been undertaken and ongoing over the last month to ensure the Board's diligence in placing our next leader. I am pleased that we are on track with the [timeline](#) established by the Board of Visitors early last year. To recap on the Board's work since the Presidential Search Committee last met on October 21, 2022, the Board of Visitors convened for a special meeting to hear the recommendations of the work of the Presidential Search Committee. Chair of the Presidential Search Committee, Bobby Hatten, presented the committee's findings to the full Board of Visitors. Serving on both the Presidential Search Committee and the Board of Visitors, I am delighted with the work of our search firm, Buffkin/Baker, the outstanding pool of candidates they presented, and the skills, experience, and qualifications of Martin Baker, Buffkin/Baker's Managing Partner and Head of its Higher Education Practice. We received the best of what Higher Education has to offer in our applicant pool and it will be obvious when the new President is announced that the new President will guide and collaborate with us on the fulfillment of our core values – putting students first; offering outstanding teaching; remaining committed to liberal learning; providing access and opportunity; and actively engaging in shaping the economic, civic and cultural life of our community.

I am also extremely grateful for the participation and input of this community and for the faculty, staff, alumni, community leaders and students who have served over this last year committing countless hours of service leading focus groups, listening, actively participating in meetings, reading resumes, working collaboratively to vet candidates and conducting our first round of

interviews. As outlined in the [Charge from the Board of Visitors](#), the work of the Presidential Search Committee is now complete and they have done an exceptional job and deserve thanks and congratulations.

Continuing apace with the [timeline](#) and in the final half of the last semester, the Board of Visitors conducted a regularly scheduled meeting on November 18, 2022 and spent a bulk of their time in thoughtfully and thoroughly vetting the proposed candidates. On December 2, 2022, the Announcement Committee of the Board of Visitors met to announce publicly that the Board of Visitors would conduct interviews within the next 15 days. The Board, joined by esteemed faculty and Presidential Search Committee members Drs. Rachel Holland and Tatiana Rizova, have now completed those final interviews. I am thrilled to update that the Board of Visitors has unanimously selected a candidate to lead Christopher Newport University in maintaining the culture that we have all come to live and love.

I will soon be providing an additional update such that each of you is fully informed and can make your own plans to attend one of the numerous special events, announcements and meetings to meet and greet our new President and celebrate our bright and strong future.

In closing, I want to again express my gratitude to all of you for your faith and trust in, and your support of, the Board of Visitors. I will continue to stay in touch as we move through this process and welcome your comments and questions by emailing president-search@cnu.edu.

Gratefully,

Lindsey Carney Smith, Esq. '01
Rector of the Board of Visitors