



December 8, 2020

Subject: Update on the Search for the 28th President of The University of Scranton

Dear Members of The University of Scranton Community:

During a difficult and demanding year (and I think we can say without fear of contradiction that 2020 qualifies), opportunities to engage in meaningful and gratifying work are especially welcome.

Chairing our Presidential Search Committee is affording me opportunities to meet regularly with talented and dedicated colleagues, to reflect anew on what makes The University of Scranton so special, and to discuss the qualities and characteristics that we need in our next leader. I could not be more pleased with where we are in the process, and I write now to share a brief update.

Throughout the fall, with substantial help from our partners from WittKieffer, we engaged in a vigorous and thorough recruiting process. We were heartened to learn how positively our most compelling candidates responded to Scranton, expressing admiration for its mission, culture, and history, and appreciation for the strengths and challenges of the position. In the end, the candidate pool was exceptionally strong and included an impressive and diverse group of proven and emerging leaders. Members of the search committee took their task very seriously, and devoted great care and attention to reviewing all the files, evaluating each candidate according to the high standards we established in our leadership profile.

The Search Committee met recently to select candidates to invite to first-round interviews; each candidate accepted with gratitude and enthusiasm. We are all very much looking forward to learning more about them, and to assessing their strengths and weaknesses relative to our criteria and priorities.

As I watched the excellent University of Scranton's [Christmas Special](#), I was moved by Father Patrick Rogers' beautiful rendition of *O Holy Night* and Father Keller's reflection on these lyrics: "a thrill of hope, a weary world rejoices..." In a world with so many reasons to be weary, I am grateful that the search continues on pace and ever more hopeful that it will result in the Board of Trustees selecting a worthy successor to Father Pilarz next spring.

Advent blessings, Merry Christmas, and Happy Holidays to all during this season of joy and expectation. If you have not had an opportunity to watch the Scranton Christmas Special or [Noel Night](#), I can assure you there are no better ways to get into the Christmas spirit! I can't wait to see our new, permanent Christmas tree up close.

Warm regards,

Kathleen Sprows Cummings, Ph.D. '93, G'93  
Chair, Presidential Search Committee