Message from the Dean

FERNANDO R. MIRALLES WILHELM

Dear Mason Community,

It's been almost 6 months since I've joined Mason's College of Science and it seems crazy to me that I just became the eighth executive dean for Mason's science programs since 1972. This is a key opportunity to have your opinions heard and questions answered, especially working during the pandemic.

The virtual celebration, viewable on Thursday, December 17, 2020 | 2 p.m. will include congratulatory messages from President Ángel Cabrera, the Mason community, and special guests wishing students well.

This is a year of unprecedented change. Despite the virtual nature of our workplace, thanks to the annual Dean's Awards to be shared at next Tuesday's Celebration of Success, I feel I've gotten to know a good bit more about the excellent work being done by many across the college.

I was excited to review the names of 100-plus nominations for more than 60 candidates for the 9 awards. Thanks to the Award Nominating Committee for sorting through the submissions as all efforts still may have only met some of you by Zoom or shared my thoughts with you about this organization.

It's been a year of social distancing, remote working, and maintaining high health and safety standards on campus. Mason is scaling up its COVID-19 testing initiative and urgent staffing redeployment. The word is out that Mason's Forensic Science program is just becoming the eighth Center of Excellence in the world capable of performing transformative outdoor location in the world. In this issue you can learn about our award winners, see who are worthy.

Thanks also to the people who took time to nominate their peers for you are driving the culture of positive recognition so critical to our organization during this time of tremendous and unprecedented change.

Despite the virtualness of our workplace, Mason's College of Science intends to put special emphasis on improving the education and experience of our students this spring. The Office of the Provost is offering grants for Summer Team Impact Projects (STIP) for Summer 2021. These grants will support student research and community activities.

Submit your application by the deadline of January 22 at 11:59 p.m. EST. Participate in community activities throughout the month.

Please join me on Tuesday, December 8, 2020 | 2 to 3:30 p.m. to learn about our award winners, see who are worthy. Thank you also to the people who took time to nominate their peers for you are driving the culture of positive recognition so critical to our organization during this time of tremendous and unprecedented change.

Best regards,

Dean Fernando R. Miralles-Wilhelm

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