



Office of the President

June 22, 2020

Daemen College
Students, Faculty and Staff

Dear Colleagues,

I hope you and your family are staying safe and that you are enjoying your summer even despite the difficult times we are all experiencing.

I am writing to share some bittersweet news. Dr. Ida Gibson has been offered an exciting opportunity to advance the diversity and inclusion efforts in a role outside the field of higher education. Sadly, her last day at Daemen will be July 10.

Dr. Gibson was named the college's first chief diversity officer on January 2, 2020 as part of the institution's continuing commitment to advance diversity and inclusion on campus. In this new role, Dr. Gibson led the college's efforts to create and sustain a campus culture that embraces and promotes diversity and inclusion. She served as a key advisor and advocate, and led in developing the vision for Daemen's new Center for Diversity and Inclusion.

Dr. Gibson will remain connected with the college from her new position. In her letter of resignation, she wrote, "Daemen has made tremendous strides in the last few months to ensure that the college has an inclusive and equitable learning environment, and I've been proud to be a part of those efforts. To serve as the first Chief Diversity Officer for the college will always be one of the highlights of my career. I look forward to continuing to partner with Daemen College as a community leader and advocate for diversity and inclusion."

I wish Dr. Gibson the best as she continues to advance her career, and I look forward to continuing to work with her to build on the foundation of inclusive excellence she has fostered here at Daemen.

I am pleased to report that Tiffany Hamilton, Director of our Higher Education Opportunity Program, will serve as Interim Chief Diversity Officer until a permanent replacement is found. We will conduct a national search for Ida's replacement. Details of the search will be forthcoming.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read 'Gary A. Olson', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Gary A. Olson
President