

Dear Roadrunner Nation,

Thanks and my sincerest appreciation to my fellow members of the SFCC Board of Trustees for your commitment and service. I'm humbled and honored you have entrusted me with the responsibility as chair of the board at State Fair Community College.

Taking the reins at this time is made easier by the groundwork laid by Randy Eaton, past chairman of the board, and the board of trustees over the years to stay focused on the fundamental strengths of our community college, how it could be improved, and how it can best be positioned for the future.

Dr. Anderson, you and your team should be recognized for all that has been accomplished. We value each and every employee and benefit from their expertise, leadership, compassion, and generosity. We thank you for making the lives of the people we serve matter, for your ability to see a better world, for being all that you are, and doing all that you do. Our communities are stronger because of the contributions each of you make.

Over 50 years ago I made two of the most important decisions in my life. First I asked State Fair Community College to admit me as a student. They accepted. While at SFCC, I made another life-changing decision. Pat asked for my hand in marriage. I accepted. Looking back to that time, I took a leap of faith that furthering my education and having a great life partner would be crucial to success. Thank you SFCC and thank you Pat for your steadfast support and encouragement. God has surely blessed us all!

I know, firsthand, the value of an education, and have seen the positive impact on families and communities. I also know, as I look around, that my story is not unique or from a time gone by. Today, students in communities and beyond, need the same chance to better their circumstances through higher education.

Doing what's best for State Fair Community College students -- present and future -- will be the focus of my chairmanship of this board. Specifically, that means, we need to accomplish a few critically important goals.

First and foremost, we welcome with open arms the 6th president of SFCC. We look forward to Dr. Bates leading this remarkable institution into the bright future that lies ahead for our students, faculty, staff, alumni, and communities.

Second, we need to continue to achieve our mission to provide relevant and responsive learning experiences that empower our students and communities to prosper.

Third, we need to continue to keep a SFCC education affordable and accessible for all students. The world is watching us, and we have a unique opportunity to lead higher education.

SFCC looks different now than the one nicknamed Plywood U that accepted me so many years ago but the vision is the same...State Fair Community College transforms lives by focusing on meeting the changing needs of the students and communities we serve.

I will be forever grateful for its role in my life, and I look forward to working with all stakeholders and the Board of Trustees to grow SFCC in excellence and wonder.

With heartfelt thanks and Roadrunner pride,

Patricia Wood

Mrs. Patricia Wood

SFCC Board of Trustees, Chair