

Danielle Ripich's Remarks

Thank you, Gloria. And thank you to all of our committee members, trustees and senior leaders who participated in the search.

[Looking to the larger audience] Thank you, as well, to everyone who has joined us to mark this important milestone in the life of the University of New England.

When I first arrived at UNE more than a decade ago, I knew I was embarking on a new phase of

my life. I tended to think of it as a journey. And -- as I conveyed to the trustees, faculty, staff and students who greeted me -- it was not a journey I intended to take alone. It was not a journey I *could* take alone. We set out *together* to build something amazing upon the foundations of UNE's historic campuses in Biddeford and Portland. We heeded the words of the poet Walt Whitman and "sailed for the deep waters only." We set out to transform UNE into Maine's premiere health sciences university. And, *together*, we have done that.

We have worked diligently and have found our accomplishments gratifying. As it has grown and evolved, UNE has become sort of like our baby. I know it's true for many of our senior leaders... not just me. I've poured my heart and soul into UNE. It is so very special to me.

Therefore, I couldn't be more pleased with the choice of James Herbert as the university's next president.

Upon first meeting James, I was struck by how warm and engaging he is, how acutely intelligent, and how forward-looking. He has exactly the right kind of background, temperament and vision necessary to lead UNE. I know he will continue to empower our talented faculty and staff to rethink the traditional ways of doing in their fields. I know he will look into the future and stay one step ahead of the trends. I know he will ensure UNE continues to play a vital role in the Maine economy.

Having steered the university to the deep waters with the help of so many wonderful people here at UNE, I am delighted to hand the wheel to a man uniquely equipped to guide it into its bright blue future... a man, who you'll be happy to know, has "salt water in his veins" as he likes to say, having grown up on the Texas Gulf Coast and spent his summers working on shrimping boats.

Please join me in welcoming James Herbert.

[They shake hands and then hug.]