



25 August 2022

Dear Colleagues,

I write to share with you my decision to leave Aurora University at the conclusion of the 2022-2023 academic year. I am grateful for the moments large and small that we have shared. I hope that you agree with me that learning is a powerful force for good in the lives of individuals, communities and societies. Each commencement ceremony reminds us of the impact an Aurora University education has on students and their families. Over the years, we have enjoyed many such special days. I look forward to several more.

I told the Faculty Senate officers about my retirement plan last spring. Since that afternoon, I have shared my decision with individuals and groups within the AU community. Now it is time for all to know that a presidential transition is underway. Over the summer, members of the Board of Trustees took initial steps to launch a national search by interviewing various executive search firms. We knew that many nearby colleges and universities were planning searches of their own and wanted to secure the best possible counsel for AU.

In the weeks ahead, a presidential search committee will be constituted by the Board of Trustees. Representatives of key AU stakeholders, including faculty and staff, will be invited to serve on this important group. Regular updates on the committee's progress will be shared by the chair of the Board of Trustees. This will be an exciting time, an opportunity to consider the years that lie ahead and the role that Aurora University will play in the lives of new generations of students. I know firsthand that such a process can be exhilarating and energizing.

Over the months ahead, we will continue to fulfill our promises to students and to plan, as appropriate, for the future of our university. I look forward to welcoming alumni back to campus in September for our first in-person Homecoming celebration in recent years and to ongoing preparations for the early November visit by representatives from The Higher Learning Commission. I plan to savor each moment and thank you, in advance, for making the 2022-2023 academic year our very best ever.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rebecca L. Sherrick". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Rebecca L. Sherrick, PhD
President