



A MESSAGE *from the Provost*

May 17, 2022

Dear Colleagues,

As you may know, Dr. Paul Dosal, Vice President for Student Success, has accepted the position of Senior Vice President for Student Success at the University of Central Florida. I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank Paul for the quite remarkable and deeply valued contributions he and his student success team have made to the University of South Florida over the years. Today, Dr. Dosal is recognized across the nation as a leading authority on student success and his dedication to this cause has helped secure USF's position as a national model for student success in higher education. We will miss his immense knowledge and passionate advocacy for our students.

Dr. Dosal joined USF in 1995 as an Associate Professor in the Department of History. He served in a variety of faculty and administrative positions in the College of Arts and Sciences, including Executive Director of ENLACE Florida (a community partnership program focused on improving postsecondary access and success for Hispanic students) until his appointment as Director for Student Success in 2010, Vice Provost for Student Success (2011), and then as Vice President (2016).

Paul has championed student success at the USF for more than 15 years and has provided the vision and skilled leadership essential to advancing our university-wide student success movement characterized by enhanced college readiness ("access for success"), especially for students of color, first-generation students, and those coming to us from limited economic backgrounds, unparalleled gains in student retention, progression and graduation rates, improved student support services (from academic advising to mental health counseling), and significantly diminishing the level of loan indebtedness for our graduates. Such gains are, in large part, responsible for USF's proud position as the nation's fastest-rising university and I know that Paul is particularly proud supporting the elevation of his hometown university. Perhaps most importantly, his mantra that Student Success is Everyone's Responsibility has become embedded in our institutional culture.

More specifically, under Dr. Dosal's leadership, the university has significantly enhanced the diversity and academic profile of our FTIC students, USF's first-year retention rate from 85% to 90% (across all campuses), the 4-year graduation rate from 43% to 63%, and the 6-year graduation rate from 52% to more than 74% exceeding the performance of many aspirational AAU institutions. In addition, led by Paul, USF's FUSE pipeline programs from state colleges have helped lift our 3-year graduation rate for transfer students to 66%. All this while closing or eliminating performance gaps based on race and socioeconomic status. These dramatic gains have established the University of South Florida as a nationally recognized model of student success and were critical to the University of South Florida's designation as a Preeminent State Research University by the Florida Board

of Governors. Additionally, such improvements have prompted representatives from numerous public and private universities from across the nation and around the world to visit USF, including those that have attended USF's National Student Success Conferences directed by Dr. Dosal, further bolstering our institution's reputation.

In the coming weeks, I will be working with incoming Interim Provost Eric Eisenberg, Vice President Dosal, and others to determine the appropriate next steps as we continue our important work in Student Success, a pillar of our 2022-2027 Strategic Plan, In Pursuit of Excellence.

Please join me in thanking Dr. Dosal for his years of dedicated service to the University of South Florida and wish him, Lisa and his family all the very best in their new venture.

Best regards,

Ralph C. Wilcox

Provost & Executive Vice President
University of South Florida