



Statement by Dr. Mary Spilde, President, Lane Community College

Presented February 3, 2016 to the Lane Community College Board of Education

Tonight I would like to make a special announcement to the college community. After 36 years in higher education, including the best times of my life at Lane Community College, I am preparing to retire from my role as President effective June 2017.

I've talked with the board about retiring for quite some time, in fact, I believe I first mentioned the possibility three or four years ago. I have stayed on at their request but now it's time for changes in my life.

I'm making this announcement now for several reasons. I want the board and the college to have an orderly presidential succession through an inclusive process that involves faculty, staff, students and the community. Having served on presidential search committees myself, and from my work nationally, I am well aware of the challenges in finding the right person for a dynamic institution like Lane. Since I became president in 2001, the job has become vastly more complex in ways that no one could have foreseen.

Lane has maintained a reputation for excellence and has remained focused on students through wave after wave of changes in technology, funding, accountability, demographics and more. I want to do what I can to support the board in finding the right person to be Lane's seventh president.

My career in higher education has been incredibly rewarding. I came to this country almost 40 years ago with two suitcases, my life savings of \$1900 and an education. It was that education that afforded me the opportunities I have had. Discovering community colleges was the beginning of a lifelong passion for our mission and our students, eventually bringing me to Lane where it has been an absolute honor to serve as president.

Lane truly is one of the best colleges in the nation. I could not have dreamed of a better opportunity or more wonderful people. I love Lane Community College but now I want to pursue other passions. While I will continue to work on behalf of community colleges in specific projects at the national level I will do that balanced with my other interests. Family is important and I want to be there for my first grandchild who will arrive at the end of this month. I want to give back to my community in ways that a presidential schedule doesn't allow. I want to get better at Spanish and I want to take a poetry class from Sandy Brown Jensen, a literature class from Anne MGrail, Susie Cousar's Global Health class, check out Chef Clive's cooking classes and Joe McCully's wine class and many more. That is the wonderful thing about Lane. Our faculty and our offerings are exemplary.



Once I've retired I will think back on all the times we've shared at Lane, both good and difficult, small and tremendous, and always amazing. I hope we will have time over the next months to celebrate our collective accomplishments.

However, for the next 17 months, I will focus on the board's priorities and pursue some key goals that will help position Lane for the future. If we decide to pursue a bond measure I will lead that effort; I plan to work with our Foundation to get our major gifts campaign over 60% of our goal; we will stabilize enrollment, a challenge that every single person who works at Lane must embrace; we need to make sure we offer our students programs with a good job market and a future; we need to offer more training for local employers; we need to continue implementing student success strategies to ensure that our students complete their goals.

I will continue to focus on the quest for fiscal stability, through more enterprise activities, and legislative and public support. These are critical. I also want to complete our next strategic plan and advance our climate action plan; work on student success, partnerships with K-12 and higher ed, outreach, data and accountability, governance, safety and security, and developing a cultural competence professional development program. It's not a small list, but hey, I've got 17 months!

I am pleased that with Lane's Executive Team, the college is in good hands. This group of phenomenal community college professionals is, without a doubt, the best leadership team Lane has ever had. I am sure you will find a great president for Lane but rest assured that you are in good hands with this team.

I'm looking forward to sharing the next 17 months with all of you, keeping Lane great, and moving us forward. I am "all in" on Lane and for the next 17 months you will find me doing the job I love, leading Lane and doing the work that needs to be done on behalf of the college.

Thank you for all the support our college community has shown me over last 20 years and thanks, in advance, for your support for the next 17 months. I plan on making them phenomenal.