



**Statement by Tony McCown, Chair, Lane Community College Board of Education**  
February 3, 2016

Tonight's announcement from President Spilde is deeply a moving moment for the board. Mary has taken this college through historic times with amazing vision, skill and compassion and her record of achievement is hard to match anywhere else in higher education.

We have given Mary outstanding performance reviews every year since she became Lane's sixth president in 2001. The only concern we have ever expressed in her performance was that she didn't take enough time for herself. It is good to see that she is finally going to do something about that.

I know that each of us personally values working with Mary, learning from her, and counting her as a friend as well as a colleague. I have always admired Mary's support of student leaders. I know that I would not have taken the chances I have through the years had she not encouraged my growth and learning opportunities while I was student body president and to this day.

There's so much we can say about Mary's accomplishments, and we will do that, in time. But for now, we are going to take a page out of Mary's playbook and look ahead to all that we need to do serve the college and community and to prepare for presidential succession. The lead-time Mary has given us is evidence of how deeply she regards Lane and wants to see the college continue to succeed. We are grateful to have her support. We have a lot of hard work ahead of us and we need to get started right away. Board leadership will work together in collaboration to develop a robust, open and transparent process to hire a new president. Thankfully, we have the time to do it right.

Community colleges nationwide have undergone tremendous change in the time that Mary has led us. Our colleges have also aged to a point where there is a lot of flux as people retire or move on. We may even find a dearth of top-flight candidates and we will have to do everything we can to assure that the reins are turned over to a successor worthy of Lane.

I would like to congratulate Dr. Spilde on her decision to retire. I haven't the slightest doubt that her next chapter in her life will be as useful as her time at Lane has been. I expect to see her walking familiar hallways in the Legislature from time to time, attending college events, and certainly sitting in our classrooms side by side with the many other lifelong learners who come to Lane to transform their lives.