

Danielle Laraque-Arena, MD, FAAP

October 2, 2015

A message to the Upstate Medical University community

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

I am truly honored and thrilled by my appointment to the position of President of SUNY Upstate Medical University. My acceptance of this appointment occurred on September 10, 2015, and was the culmination of a wonderful process during which time I had the opportunity to meet with many of you and to hear of your aspiration for a SUNY Upstate that is vibrant and tackles head-on the tough issues.

Among those issues are being the academic leader that Syracuse demands in the areas of education, research and transformative health care delivery that reaches out to communities, addresses the social determinants of health, among them poverty, and increases the economic vitality of the region. I want to thank the SUNY Board of Trustees chaired by H. Carl McCall; SUNY Chancellor Nancy L. Zimpher; Thomas Taylor, Chair of the Search Committee; and the entire Search Committee for their vote of confidence that I may lead the efforts to achieve those aspirations.

At the open forum in August, I had the opportunity to lay out my vision for Upstate. That vision is to align the academic mission of our four colleges, which includes the Binghamton campus, with the service mission of Upstate University Hospital.

Upstate Medical University is a remarkable institution; an example of a publicly funded system that is accessible to all and has the right mission to train the next generation of health professionals and to improve the health and well-being of individuals in Central New York. The resources of our institution are broad. Continuously linking the educational, research and service missions is the foundation for transformational change in the present healthcare environment. Rigorously implementing this approach through elimination of silos can deliver on the intrinsic goal of health improvement.

Innovative approaches to coalesce all the best talents of our scientists, clinicians, inter-professional faculty and staff, students, and our many community partners will position us to address the leading causes of morbidity and mortality for infants, children, adolescents, young adults, adults, and our geriatric population. This approach will position us to cure disease but also to promote health.

My tenure at the university will begin on or about January 14, 2016. There is much work to do together. Our approach must be impassioned, detailed and collaborative. I look forward to meeting many more of you as I tour the community. See you soon!



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