

**Acceptance Remarks by Chancellor-Elect for UNC Wilmington
Dr. Jose Zito Sartarelli
UNC Board of Governors Meeting
April 10, 2015**

I would like to thank President Ross, Chairman Fennebresque, the members of the Board of Governors, the Co-Chairs of the Search Committee, Mr. Michael Shivar and Mrs. Wendy Murphy, the members of the Search Committee, members of the Board of Trustees, Interim Chancellor Sederburg, my wife, and others. I am honored; I am humbled; I am excited and ready to hit the ground running.

You may wonder what attracted me to the position. I think UNC Wilmington is a strong university. It's growing. It's financially sound with strong rankings that to some extent have gone unrecognized and we will make sure they are recognized. The *U.S. News & World Report* ranked UNC Wilmington #16th best among regional universities in the south. *The Business Journal* ranked UNC Wilmington #49th among the best public universities. We are proud of the fact that UNCW has a ranking of #3 in terms of nonfiction, creative writing in the country. To be named in the Top 5 in any program is very special. Congratulations. I am impressed with the quality of student at UNCW. UNC Wilmington's average SAT scores are 1192 – the third highest in the system after UNC-Chapel Hill and NC State.

I am very impressed with the facilities. I am coming opposite the mountains of West Virginia so to see a university on a flat land is nice. UNC Wilmington is a strong university with strong community engagement with the city of Wilmington. When the university was started in 1947 as Wilmington College, it was claimed from the city. Today, UNC Wilmington and the city maintain their symbiotic relationship. North Carolina is a very strong state. It has grown tremendously in the past few years. When I attended Michigan State University in the '70s, it was in the Top10 in terms of GDP in the country; now Michigan is #13 and North Carolina is #9.

UNC is a magnet for economic development. I see economic development on five levers of importance – natural resources, human capital, capital formation, technology, and good sound policies. The position of UNCW is sound, but we want to take it higher, make it better, becoming more engaged and encouraging it to soar to greatness, and I think it can be done.

I come from three sets of values. One is that I believe in diversity and globalization; second is I believe in ethics and integrity – there is no substitute for it in leadership; and third is excellence – we must permeate the whole university with the drive and pursuit of excellence.

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To finalize, there are five strategic elements that we will talk about in the years to come – 1) we want attract the very best student, staff, professors, and offer them opportunities to development themselves and retain them; 2) we need to educate our sons and daughters very well; 3) we want to enable our students to get good jobs; 4) we need to be engaged in the city, region, state, nation and the world; 5) we must have a vision for fundraising.

Thank you for electing me to this position. I appreciate it very much. I am going to rely on your support as we drive success and excellence and build on what is already in place at UNCW. Again, I am honored and very humbled. Thank you very much.

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