

January 14, 2018  
Search Committee for President  
University of Central Florida



Subject: Application for President of the University of Central Florida

Dear Search Committee Members,

It is a pleasure to prepare this letter and application for the position of President of the University of Central Florida (UCF). Thank you for your time in advance for considering this application. My current position is as a tenured Full Professor of Electrical Engineering and Founding Dean of the College of Engineering and Computer Science at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. I have substantial on-going multidisciplinary experience related to programs at UCF and can especially connect state-wide in Florida, due to my long standing work in the state, and relate to sponsors to position & enhance academic programs collaboratively to grow support for faculty and student success. I had previously served as a tenured Full Professor of Electrical Engineering in the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences and Center Director (equivalent to Department Chair) of the Power Center for Utility Explorations at the AAU RI University at Buffalo. Prior to that I had served as a tenured full Professor of Electrical Engineering and Executive Director of the Office of Research (equivalent to Associate Dean) for the College of Engineering at the R1 University of South Florida leading \$25M/year of research for a unit with 110 FTE faculty, and as Center Director. I can get off the ground running as President of UCF with my capabilities in educational program development, decades long connections ability to work with partners and especially focused on environments such as at UCF, work with industry, demonstrated accreditation experience, demonstrated initiative and participatory strategic planning development, and ability to work productively with faculty colleagues and form educational programs and novel funded educational and research clusters and partnerships spanning the globe, and exactly fit with the global trends in educational and business investment.

I have also secured over \$40M as Principal Investigator in funding as the leader of a center and in my current role as Dean, and in past roles, produced over 100 refereed publications, and now as Dean continue with significantly expanded and successful initiative development. I have increased applied research and educational funding in my unit three-fold since arrival to approximately \$30M, and lead by example by development of proposals inclusively, and have doubled proposal submissions in the past year. I lead from the front and in partnership with faculty colleagues with courage, ability to handle & welcome risk and instill a culture of living on the cutting edge of scholarship and educational initiatives that have high value. I have a strong 10+ year administrative background leading 91 FTE faculty in five departments, and have led a staff of associate directors in my center plus affiliated faculty (equivalent to Department Chair), a unit research office (equivalent to Associate Dean), and served as President or Chair of several professional organizations. As Founding Dean thus far I have produced over 20 initiatives that are highly successful, completed a successful accreditation review, produced unit by-laws and T&P criteria, formed our Founding Advisory Council, and formed & unveiled a unit strategic plan based on Compassion, Community and Technology.

UCF is an institution with a long history based upon an integrated approach to education, scholarship, and service. This is a tribute to the outstanding faculty, staff and administration. I have had long experience in an institution of high stature such as UCF, working in a diverse environment managing and hiring faculty and staff, and establishing community and international partnerships. Hence I feel qualified in being able to grow UCF, drive a vision, embrace student-success, manage accreditation, develop distinctions, form community and internationally engaged efforts, raise funds, and collaborate with faculty, staff, and students.

Some successful examples (my key strengths, demonstrated success, and lessons learned) of my approach are:

Building a vision and plans to be community/internationally engaged:

Current efforts involve development of a community and international engagement strategy addressing opportunities in infrastructures and innovation enterprises. Once you engage with the local and international community, which is beneficial as a win-win on many levels, it establishes institutional strengths, which enable significant ability to pursue efforts that need leverage and participation in large scale activities. For example, I personally secured as Principal a \$20M effort to establish a Manufacturing Innovations Hub.

Building institutional capabilities:

I currently serve as Founding Dean of a unit with 3000 students, have built up the leadership team, hired chairs, and enhanced administrative capabilities so faculty can succeed.

Building educational pipelines:

I have had multiple experiences in this over the years, but a recent activity is a +\$12M DOE and industry effort I led involving 10 institutions which was geared to move students from various backgrounds through community colleges to universities, from craft to professionals, and more.

Building bridges institutionally:

As Dean at UTRGV I am spearheading many institutional efforts, including wide scale work in planning our manufacturing enterprise, transportation systems, energy systems, water, technology, undergraduate, masters, and doctoral programs involving multiple units. This holistic approach strengthens each unit by facilitating teaming efforts. Similar activities at UCF can be done to bring faculty together.

Building capabilities to solve transdisciplinary grand challenges:

An example is my long-term work in development of infrastructures that are themselves resilient to the impact of the environment, yet allow for economic growth via technical innovations and engagement. The holistic approach to the grand challenges shows flexibility in my mindset to facilitate/enable similar efforts with faculty to address their own challenges and areas where UCF can grow.

Building Diversity:

I have a demonstrated multicultural commitment to diversity and creating an inclusive environment as evidenced by the programs I've formed. For example, I am currently in the second largest Hispanic serving university in the USA and the new vision we created for the unit seeks to leverage that classification for the benefit of our students, and I worked with the Niagara Falls Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People to form a Community Advancement Strategy.

I am highly motivated and experienced with the development of academic programs, forming educational and scholarly goals from the ground up, and creating a collaborative and exciting environment with UCF administrators, unit Deans, chairs, and faculty colleagues, staff and students. Please direct all communications to my home address, email and cell: Email: alexdomijan@gmail.com, cell: 813-270-0366.

Sincerely,



Alexander Domijan, Jr., Professor and Founding Dean

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