



State University of New York  
College of Environmental Science and Forestry

February 3, 2016

The past year has been one of challenge and transition for our community. Collectively and individually, we have been dealing with many significant issues facing our College including the Presidential transition, the structural deficit, strategic planning, and changes in our relationship with Syracuse University. Concerns regarding this are articulated more fully in the Sears Report you received last week and in the Bill of Particulars that was sent earlier today.

As members of the President's Executive Cabinet, we authored this document to articulate our support of President Wheeler's vision for ESF and to underscore our confidence in his ability to successfully move this vision forward. His is a vision we are committed to ensuring becomes a reality. This is a vision of an institution that is adaptive, constantly assessing emerging needs and opportunities, and adapting to meet these needs and opportunities.

An institution that builds on traditions and current strengths to remain relevant and impactful in a rapidly changing world as we deliver a uniquely excellent student experience.

An institution that is differentiated from the hundreds of environmental and sustainability programs at other colleges and universities by a bold, inspiring, daring vision for the future that offers the potential of transformative progress.

An institution that is simultaneously the preeminent environmental institution in the region, SUNY, and New York State *and* a nationally visible, respected college attracting students, partners, donors, and investors from across the country who share our inspiring vision for the future and who want to be part of transformative change.

An institution grounded in STEM fields that amplifies its impacts and influence on society and science through engagement with the social sciences, humanities, and the arts.

An institution that preserves a diversity of scientific expertise to enrich student education and contribute broadly to environmental solutions *and* provides national leadership in selected areas through investments in teams of faculty to achieve intellectual critical mass.

An institution that exemplifies the potential of transdisciplinary synergy to address great environmental challenges across the full range of their complexity, and that prepares its students to be effective members of transdisciplinary teams.

An institution that is internally and externally collaborative, engaging with colleagues and departments across campus and across academic institutions, government agencies, NGOs, scientific organizations, and other entities that share our interests and expand our reach and impact.

A community of idea entrepreneurs, leveraging available assets to achieve maximum impact from discoveries, increase ESF visibility, and contribute to public awareness of science. And, a community of resource entrepreneurs, attracting investments and partners to advance our work.

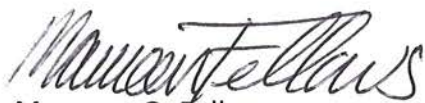
A campus that is accepting and inclusive, where respectful discourse takes place among diverse peoples and perspectives, where there are neither physical nor social barriers to participation, and where anyone who shares our scientific concerns and interests may find a home.

A college that is committed to contributing to the communities of which it is a part, including Syracuse, Central New York, New York City, and the Adirondacks. A college whose impact knows no boundaries, being a positive force across the country and around the globe.

An institution that defines a new American environmentalism that is grounded in science, informed by values, and that is inclusive of all voices to overcome political polarization of environmental issues and remove impediments to actions that improve human welfare and conserve the natural world.

This vision leads the College in a direction that will position it for leadership and impact in the century ahead while honoring ESF's traditions, enabling current excellence to continue, and maintaining an atmosphere in which individual students, staff, and faculty are encouraged to pursue their dreams.

Respectfully submitted,



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