Sept. 23, 2019

Dear ESF Community,

I am pleased to share with you the final report on the ESF Discovery Challenge process. Months of hard work by various constituent groups culminated in a report I am proud to support. I met with SUNY Chancellor Kristina Johnson and her senior leadership to talk about our collaborative work and they too were pleased with the results.

Special thanks to the advisory group co-chairs: Donald Leopold, Christopher Nomura, Timothy Volk, Jacqueline Frair, Lindi Quackenbush, Joanie Mahoney, David Newman, Joseph Rufo and Gary Scott, along with the advisory group members and many subcommittee participants.

The campus-wide Discovery Challenge process has been of tremendous value to the College community. This process allowed ESF to take stock of its current state of affairs, identify cross-cutting opportunities, the ways and means to expand collaboration, and to lay the groundwork for strategic thinking. Faculty, staff and students came together around ESF’s academic and research strengths, its human capital and its increasingly challenging business model. This inclusive process was highly transparent and played a critical role in unifying the ESF community around shared visions of the College’s future.

This work lays out a future vision for ESF that is transformative and inspirational and, if properly supported, will take ESF to the next level. We are at the forefront of researching and developing the natural solutions to create a sustainable future. We have taken a leadership role in addressing the pressing environmental issues of our time, including species preservation and restoration, resiliency, recycling, sustainability and raising public awareness of science and environmental issues and policies.

I will be hosting a Discovery Challenge Town Hall to share the report with the ESF community. Please join me Friday, Oct. 3, from 11 a.m. to noon in Alumni Lounge. I hope you find the Discovery Challenge report to be inspirational and a reminder of our mission’s importance.

Sincerely,