

**From:** Eileen DeLuca  
**Sent:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:50 PM  
**Subject:** A Reflection on a Historic Semester

*“The beauty of things must be that they end.”*  
-Jack Kerouac

The beauty of higher education, I have often thought, is that we are employed in a regular cycle of beginnings, and endings. With each semester, we have the opportunity for renewal, and to improve what we do. Likewise, each semester our students have the opportunity to rewrite their path, to be more diligent in their studies, and to re-author themselves to a new set of faculty.

Kerouac’s quote above is even more resonant as we come to the close of 2020, which, will not soon be forgotten. We have all felt the stress and *distress* of local and global challenges while being in awe of the collaboration, problem-solving, and courageous acts of many, as well as the overall resilience of the human spirit.

As we come to the close of this historic Fall 2020 semester, I want to thank everyone once again for all of the innovation and collaboration towards achieving the College’s Mission and Strategic Directions. I see beauty in the many ways, big and small, we came together as a community to rally behind our mission, despite this pandemic taking a toll on us all. We have all seen the memes and perhaps even been tempted ourselves to reproduce the narrative that “2020 can’t come to end quick enough.” But as I leave the Thomas Edison Campus today, I will embrace not the feeling of closing the door on a difficult chapter in FSW history, but rather the feeling of pride to be part of this great team, that repeatedly faces that which threatens, and answers “we will not fail.”

Now it is time to rest, recharge, and reflect upon all we have accomplished. I hope that you are able to connect with your family, friends, and faith, and disconnect from that from which brings anxiety, stress, and exhaustion. Because of all you do, this semester has come to a successful end. Onward to a new beginning in 2021.

Sincerely,

Eileen

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