

*On behalf of the College faculty comes Mr. Andrew Webster, Professor and Department Chair of Art, Design, Humanities. Mr. Webster is a proud alumnus who attended MJC in 1980-82.*

Andrew Webster:

Good afternoon. It is a pleasure and an honor for me today to bring greetings from the faculty of State College of Florida on this occasion, the celebration of the inauguration of Dr Carol Probstfeld.

Each and everyone of us know of the tremendous strides this institution has made during the years of her prior leadership as the Vice President of Business Affairs: her outstanding credentials and abilities among them--but foremost we are afloat because she is a leader who recognizes the value of supporting strong faculty-student interaction and sustaining the camaraderie and sense of a college family that has been carefully nurtured at MJC, MCC and SCF.

The supportive institutional culture, in fact, is what attracted so many faculty members to this College and has motivated us to recommit even in periods of significant change.

From both sides of the teaching podium, I understand the importance of professors who care for their students. In 1980-81, I came to Manatee Junior College from Northern Michigan as a student, and like so many of our students today, I was undecided about a career and not sure where to start. As I enrolled and began my courses, I started meeting interesting and driven students and professors who loved teaching. They, in turn, motivated me to evolve and were willing to help facilitate a culture of learning. I instantly knew that this college was different and I knew I was going to stay.

The wonderful foundation that MJC provided prepared me for degrees from the University of South Florida and the Savannah College of Art and Design. My professional experience includes teaching at both public and private institutions and includes photography and video contracts with

professional basketball, football and soccer teams. Some 17 years later, I walked back onto the campus of SCF and it felt like I was home.

Here I have remained – at this college that made such an indelible imprint on me as a young student. It was this experience that I want to provide my students today -- the same quality instruction and caring that helped me find my direction in life. In classrooms in every department in this institution, you will find impassioned professors who are motivated to give back and to go beyond teaching, to teach life skills and to encourage our students to find and succeed in their chosen paths.

President Probstfeld has led a transparent charge from the outset, asserting that this institution needed to establish new aspirations about which the faculty, staff, administration and she as the president could get excited. These objectives include maintaining our college as an institution that is engrossed in the success of our students, strengthening every facet and feature of what this institution expresses, and enhancing our service to the community. Because of these aspects, Dr. Probstfeld has rekindled a sense of pride, strength and honor at this institution.

These accomplishments are ones of which anyone would be proud, but I also know that she looks toward the future more than she looks back, and that where others may see an avenue of completed projects, she sees a well-lit path to much more success. From the beginning of her time here and now as our President, she has been extremely conscious of preserving the rich traditions of SCF and the whole College Family while bringing us forward to meet the opportunities and obligations that the future places on us, and this makes the prospects for the future of SCF very bright indeed.

Dr. Probstfeld, in the coming days our college will be challenged by issues unique to our institution and by contemporary pressures that confound educators everywhere. We expect that you will challenge us, the faculty, to join with you in answering the call.

Dr. Probstfeld, we the State College of Florida faculty accept your challenge. And we look forward to working together to ensure that students who come to this College receive a well-rounded and complete education. Thank you.