

Dear Weissman School family,

It is with mixed emotions that I am announcing that effective July 1st, 2020, I will be stepping down as Dean and going on sabbatical for one year. I will be devoting my time to new creative projects, including but not limited to writing and producing of a new TV series about higher education. This series will draw from my upcoming book, "Institutional Failure in Higher Education: Why Colleges and Universities Fail and What We Can Do to Prevent It," co-authored with my fellow Dean and friend Dr. John Pratte, from the University of Louisiana.

I would like to sincerely thank all the faculty and staff with whom I have worked with during my four years as your Dean and for all your efforts to make the Weissman School a better place for everyone. I will miss three things in particular: my daily contact with faculty who are so dedicated to advance scholarship and pedagogy at the highest rigorous level; the dedication and high sense of ethical commitment of the staff; and finally, the students with whom I share my immigrant story, my diverse background, and having been a first-generation college student.

As a farewell, I would like to quote a portion of the English writer William Wordsworth's poem "Ode: Intimations of Immortality from Recollections of Early Childhood."

What though the radiance which was once so bright
Be now for ever taken from my sight,
Though nothing can bring back the hour
Of splendour in the grass, of glory in the flower;
We will grieve not, rather find
Strength in what remains behind...

¡Adios!

Al Romero