

Statement on strategic planning to assure student success

UM-Flint Chancellor Susan Borrego

First, all of us agree that the regional campuses play an important role in expanding the opportunity for a Michigan degree in the state and region.

I have spent my entire career addressing issues of student success, often on regional campuses, and one of the reasons I chose to come to UM-Flint was because of the resources – the endowment, compensation, scholarship dollars, faculty-to-student ratio – all are among the characteristics that were attractive to me.

We continue to find ways to provide support and services for students and faculty.

At Flint, we have increased financial aid by 10-12 percent each year; we regularly review non-registered students in their last semester and have identified funding to help them graduate if they are not registered.

We have worked to increase financial aid including more robust merit aid and support for travel abroad and student research, leveraged MCubed to expand opportunities for faculty research, and the list goes on and on.

The Flint campus community over the last dozen years or so has twice developed a strategic plan, the last one unanimously endorsed by the faculty. These were extensive, campus- and community-wide efforts, informed by broad research, identifying opportunities and challenges. Overall, the five-year strategic plan used the lens of three critical areas:

- Stabilizing the budget
- Increasing enrollment (new students and retention)
- Increasing faculty, staff, and student support

Like President Schlissel and the board, I agree that increasing support for our campuses is important and have used my numerous opportunities to advocate for greater support from the state.

The establishment of our independent budgets years ago to protect the autonomy of the regionals also means protecting our mission, commitment to access, etc. I hope that all can respect the value of that independence.