

From: President Thomas F. Schutte <memo@pratt.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2016 10:22 AM
To: Gilberto R. Gerald
Subject: Sharing My Decision to Step Down as Pratt President

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Pratt

Dear faculty, staff, students, alumni, and friends of Pratt:

After a great deal of thought and discussion with my wife Tess, I have decided that the time is right for Pratt Institute and for me personally to announce my decision to step down as president after the end of the 2016-2017 academic year. I have loved being president of the Institute these past 23 years, and Tess and I have taken great joy in being active members of this vibrant community.

Over the next year, while the Pratt Board of Trustees searches for my successor, I will continue to serve actively as your president. Several important initiatives remain to be completed, most especially continued campus improvements. This fall, we will finish the restoration of the 19th-century building that houses the Student Union. Also, we are slated to break ground on a 250-bed residence hall this summer. Further, among the campus improvements, we will be focusing on the process of designing and securing funding for a new home for the School of Art. Additionally, in partnership with the faculty, my administration will begin work on developing recommendations for increasing graduate student enrollment across the disciplines at Pratt.

Following my arrival at Pratt in 1993, the Institute implemented a series of financial and operational measures that began to transform our institution. The oldest buildings—including many historic landmarks—were restored to their original glory, and modern amenities were added to enhance the living and learning environments for our faculty and students. In 1998, we established Pratt Sculpture Park, which today is the largest outdoor art display in New York City. Three years later, Pratt

opened its Manhattan campus at 144 West 14th Street. In total, five academic buildings were constructed over the past two decades, and the Institute also made major investments by acquiring property in Brooklyn for several of our programs.

Many of Pratt's academic programs rank in the top tier among schools of art and design, and our student applications are at an all-time high. Thanks to the hard work of the Institute's distinguished faculty and top-notch staff, the demand for a Pratt education has never been greater.

The Pratt Board, under the leadership of Chairman Bruce Gitlin, has honored me by naming me president emeritus upon the completion of my term. In this capacity I will continue to be involved in fundraising initiatives, community relations, and other special projects where the board and my successor feel that I can be helpful. Tess and I will remain residents and active members of the Clinton Hill neighborhood.

While Pratt will always be my first passion, I am greatly looking forward to pursuing several other professional goals and personal interests, including writing, lecturing, and spending more time with Tess and our children and grandchildren.

In the years ahead, I am confident that Pratt will reach even greater academic and artistic distinction. The Institute is well positioned to remain a top ranked school of art and design, above all because of what you have done and continue to do for this wonderful institution. I have pledged to Chairman Gitlin and to the Board of Trustees that I will continue to work vigorously over the next academic year to advance Pratt, and I extend that same pledge to all of you.

Tess and I will always love Pratt and the extraordinary people who make this such an outstanding institution.

Sincerely yours,



Thomas F. Schutte, Ph.D.
President

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