

It is a great privilege for me to write this letter on behalf of Dr. Charles Mitsakos who is retiring from Rivier College this coming June 2008. I respond to this invitation with much sadness at Rivier's loss but also with much enthusiasm given so qualified a professional.

Dr. Mitsakos came to Rivier College in 1977 as an adjunct faculty member to teach courses in the School Administration Program. Due to his years of experiences as a school administrator, our students soon recognized in him a very competent and compassionate teacher, dedicated to his work, totally well-informed in the world of public school systems.

In 1992 Rivier College was honored to receive him as a full-time faculty member. Having worked with him for fifteen years as an adjunct, the College knew positively that this full-time candidate would do extremely well. With students interested in pursuing more advanced education in school administration, Dr. Mitsakos developed and implemented a CAGS Program. Lately, at the request of his students, he has developed the Ed. D. Program in Leadership and Learning which will be launched in 2008.

In his sixteen years as full-time professor and Department Chair, Dr. Mitsakos has prepared many leaders in school administration on several levels of endorsement, such as, associate principal, principal, district administrator, special education administrator, and superintendent. All these accomplishments in the training of school leaders show how productive his work at Rivier has been in the last sixteen years. His scholarship in both theoretical and practical matters as well as his spiritual commitment to Christian education has proven to be outstanding. His perspectives in the education field are constructive, insightful, and engaging. As a teacher to graduate students, Dr. Mitsakos has the personality, the know-how, and the leadership qualities to carry on all responsibilities with excellence.

Furthermore, as Chair of the Division of the Education Department, Dr. Mitsakos has radiated his great PASSION for teaching and learning beyond his own school administration and supervision program. His contributions to all programs, graduate and undergraduate, have proven most informative, resourceful, straightforward, and always presented with such consideration and respect. He has kept abreast of all trends and has seen that all Rivier's programs remain fully attuned to the most recent developments in teaching and learning.

Before closing, let me add that Dr. Charles Mitsakos remains highly respected by former and present graduate and undergraduate students, colleagues, and administrators. As Chair of his Division, he has given concrete evidence of total commitment to the mission of Rivier College and of the Education Department.

My closing wish is that Dr. Mitsakos who has had such a varied background in bringing students to become leaders in learning and teaching will be given the opportunity to share

his PASSION and wealth of information so as to continue preparing Leaders for the Future of Our Schools.

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