



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

(202) 651-5005

October 20, 2005

Mr. Andy Lange
President, National Association of the Deaf Board of Directors
814 Thayer Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20910-4500

KENDALL GREEN
800 FLORIDA AVENUE, NE
WASHINGTON, DC 20002-3695

Dear Mr. Lange,

Please convey appreciation to the National Association of the Deaf (NAD) Board of Directors for your letter to the Gallaudet Board of Trustees expressing strong interest in the selection process of Gallaudet University's next president. Your interest is appreciated. Your detailed letter conveying enthusiasm for the upcoming process is not surprising given the historical relationship between Gallaudet and the NAD. After all, Robert M. McGregor, the first president of the NAD was the first in a long line of Gallaudet alumni who served as NAD president over the years. Gallaudet alumni have also served in numerous leadership roles on the NAD Board or as state association presidents and officers. In addition, we readily recognize the instrumental role the NAD played during the Deaf President Now (DPN) movement in 1988.


When President Abraham Lincoln signed the Gallaudet Charter in 1864, he created an institution that would provide a post-secondary education to deaf people and award college degrees to the graduates of that institution. While there have been many changes at Gallaudet in the past 141 years, we remain first and foremost an academic institution whose primary purpose remains rooted in the Charter.

That being said, the Board of Trustees recognizes that Gallaudet is a unique institution that has a role that is much broader than that of many other institutions of higher education. In a wide variety of ways, Gallaudet has, and will continue to have, a positive impact on the lives of individuals in the American and global deaf community.

We appreciate the issues you have raised in your letter, and wish to acknowledge that your input during specific aspects of the search process will be valuable in helping the Presidential Search Committee achieve a successful outcome. The Presidential Search Committee will include University Board members, faculty, staff, students and alumni. There will be opportunities for community stakeholders to meet with the hired search consultant and provide input on what the Presidential Profile should look like, make nominations of qualified candidates, attend the finalists' public presentations and provide feedback for the Search Committee's consideration. This community component involvement will help shape the success of the Gallaudet Presidential search process as the University moves forward to select new leadership.

May the Search committee's efforts result in the excellent outcome we all are seeking.

Sincerely,


Ms. Pamela Holmes, '74
Chair, Presidential Search Committee

cc: Gallaudet University Board of Trustees