



April 1, 2019

Ms. Jennifer Nelson, Executive Director
Uncommon Friends Foundation
PO Box 811
Fort Myers, FL 33902-0811

Dear Ms. Nelson:

I would like to thank the Uncommon Friends Foundation (UFF) for its generous contribution to Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU) to establish Uncommon Friends Chair in Ethics endowment in 2004. The Uncommon Friends Foundation's gift has enabled many accomplishments, and I wanted to provide you with an update on those activities for this past year.

I have maintained the practice of including Uncommon Friends Foundation Business Ethics Award companies (and other excellent companies) as places for my students in MAN 3063 "Organizational Ethics and Values" to study. I very much appreciate the support of CRS Technology, Sunshine Ace Hardware, Ted Todd Insurance, Conditioned Air, PBS Contractors as well as Arthrex, Storm Smart, Allyn International, Chris-Tel Construction, Hertz Corporation, and Edison National Bank. This academic year I have also had as guest speakers in my class from Sunshine Ace Hardware, Edison National Bank, The Leadership Culture, and Chico's.

As you know, the endowment funds have served as the financial basis for the annual "Celebrating Ethical Leadership in Southwest Florida" luncheon that the UFF and FGCU have co-hosted on the FGCU campus for the past 13 years. We had presentations by the three finalists for the Uncommon Friends Foundation Business Ethics Award and the event was attended by over 40 prominent people in the community. I served as head judge for the event and CRS Technology's Jordi Tejero and FGCU's Chrissann Ruehle comprised the committee.

I was pleased to provide a report of the endowed chair activities at the Uncommon Evening gala and co-present the award winner.

The Uncommon Friends Foundation endowment funds also have enabled me to support a number of ethics-focused initiatives. Here is a subset of those activities: I spoke at Allyn International's Lunch and Learn Series, I offered a Distinguished Speech in North Carolina, and I addressed the Uncommon Friends Society.

We held the second annual FGCU High School Ethics Case Competition. That was a wonderful collaboration among the Uncommon Friends Foundation, Lee County Schools, and FGCU. I received a variety of communications afterward including handwritten notes from some students. All expressed their appreciation for this event.

I also hosted the second annual FGCU Ethics Case Competition on our campus. The winner of this competition was then designated to represent FGCU at the University of Arizona competition, our first effort there. For the third time we sent a team to the Southeast Regional Business Ethics Case Competition at Stetson University. Also, for the first time we sent a team to the ethics competition at Mount St. Mary's University in Emmitsburg, MD. Each time I have been joined by other faculty in preparing the teams, so I want to thank Ashley Mandeville, Jerry Schoenfeld, and Chrissann Ruehle, in particular. The FGCU team placed division runner-up at Stetson, finishing higher than any Florida university.

We also sponsored the 3rd Annual Distinguished Speaker in Ethics Series, which was held on February 6, 2019. Ten-year Popeyes Louisiana Chicken CEO, Cheryl Bachelder was the distinguished speaker and we tripled the audience from the first year and were up about 50% from last year. Two hundred will probably remain our target for this event.

Finally, the endowment has facilitated my own scholarly research in the past year. For example, it permitted me to attend my discipline's premier meeting, The Academy of Management Conference, where, among other activities, I co-presented "Incorporating Free-Market Thinking into Curricula" with Terjesen et al.; presented "Pulling Back the Curtain: What an Executive Coach Talks About," which was Winner of the Management Consulting Division Award for Outstanding Research-Based Paper on Management Consulting; and, co-presented "Mindfulness: A Practice for Improved Middle Manager Decision Making" with Carolynn Larson-Garcia and Deborah Wharff.

Some other scholarly output during the year included:

**Dent, E. B. (accepted). Pulling back the curtain: What an executive coach talks about. *OD Journal*.

Dent, E. B. (2018, September-October). Honest day's work. *Automotive Recycling*, 36-43. (A)

**Dent, E. B., Ansted, R., & Aasen, C. (2018). Profit and social value: An analysis of strategies and sustainability at the base of the pyramid. *Journal of International & Interdisciplinary Business Research*, 5, 110-137. (PRJ, D)

A monthly newspaper business column that runs in The Robesonian. Although the topics are typically more general than just ethics, I did write columns such as "Living and Working Ethically."

It has been my honor to serve as the Uncommon Friends Chair in Ethics during the 2018-2019 academic year at Florida Gulf Coast University. Once again, I want to thank the Uncommon Friends Foundation for its generous support in the establishment of this endowment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eric B. Dent". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Eric B. Dent, Ph.D.

Uncommon Friends Endowed Chair Professor of Ethics