
Fitchburg State University Today

Hodge nominated as 12th president

The university Board of Trustees voted this month to nominate **Dr. Donna Souder Hodge** as the university's 12th president.

The nomination, which followed a national search that resulted in three finalists visiting campus for interviews with different campus populations, is contingent upon approval by the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education as well as contractual negotiations.

Dr. Hodge is [currently](#) Vice President of Operations & Advancement at Colorado State University, Pueblo, where she has worked in a variety of roles since 2010, including chief strategy officer and tenured faculty member.



"This was a difficult decision with a strong slate of finalists to lead Fitchburg State," Board of Trustees Chairperson C. Deborah Phillips said. "We are confident Dr. Hodge has the leadership skills and experience to find consensus among campus constituencies as we confront the challenges facing all institutions of higher education. She is a strong communicator who is mindful of the critical role that public higher education plays in the success of the city and region."

"I am honored and excited for the opportunity to join the Fitchburg State community," Dr. Hodge said. "It was clear from my interactions with campus and community constituencies during the search process that Fitchburg State is a special place, and I look forward to being part of its continued progress and building upon its strong foundation."

[Learn more](#)



Commencement Ceremonies approach

This week, the university celebrates its 128th [commencement](#) exercises.

- The [Graduate Commencement Ceremony](#) will take place at **6:30 p.m. Thursday** in the Athletics and Recreation Center. The Graduate Student Leadership Award will be presented to **Ali Raza**, completing a Master of Science in computer science. *The ceremony is a ticketed*

event.

- The Undergraduate Commencement Ceremony will be held at **10 a.m. Saturday** on the main quadrangle (or the Athletics and Recreation Center in the event of inclement weather). The commencement address will be given by business professor and entrepreneur **Yla Eason '71**, who will also be presented the President's Medal. The President's Medal will also be awarded to **Reinaldo Lopez**, the founder of Resource Management Inc., one of the nation's largest Hispanic-owned businesses. Class valedictorian **Jyy Rose Liang**, majoring in educational studies, will also be recognized at the ceremony.

[Learn more](#)

Falcons Care

The **Office of Student Development** shared an update on the university community's support for students experiencing food and housing insecurity.

This academic year, the [Falcon Bazaar](#) had 391 student visits (see their [wishlist](#)); established five pilot snack "Grab and Go" locations; provided 62 Valentine's Day lunches; collected nearly 1,500 pounds of food; and logged 82 visits to the [professional clothing closet](#) in Hammond Hall.

[Learn more](#)



Falcons Care
By the Numbers: How You've Helped

- 391 - STUDENT VISITS TO THE FALCON BAZAAR
- 5 - PILOT SNACK "GRAB AND GO" LOCATIONS: TRIO SSS, ATHLETICS, CDI, STUDENT AFFAIRS, ALUMNI AND DEVELOPMENT
- 62 - VALENTINE'S DAY LUNCHES PROVIDED FOR FREE
- 1,487 - POUNDS OF FOOD COLLECTED THIS YEAR.
- 82 - VISITS TO THE PROFESSIONAL CLOTHING CLOSET

FITCHBURG STATE UNIVERSITY
Office of Student Development

ALFA's 20th anniversary includes art exhibit

Fitchburg State's Adult Learning in the Fitchburg Area ([ALFA](#)) is celebrating its 20th anniversary this spring, including a Community Gallery installation at the [Fitchburg Art Museum](#) through May 27.

The ALFA gallery show is juried exhibition whose requirement for entry was that those submitting works needed to be or have been ALFA students or instructors. ALFA artists submitted work reflective of their style, artistic vision, and message. Participating artists represent those both newly-minted as well as well-established professional artists.

ALFA's anniversary events also include the [Love of Learning Day](#) celebration at **11 a.m. Wednesday, May 22** in Hammond Hall. This program includes a lunch buffet with the bluesy folk fusion of five-piece band Tattoo, followed by a mini-sampling of current ALFA courses led by our community instructors. [Tickets](#) for the Love of Learning Day are \$20 and may be purchased online at fitchburgstate.edu/alfa.



Keep up with
campus happenings
on the Burg Blog



Follow the [Burg Blog](#) for timely updates of campus life.

Among the recent articles and slideshows, see scenes from the [Presidential Palooza](#) celebrating the tenure of **President Lapidus**; the Office of Student Development's [last day of classes](#) celebration; the [Heritages of Change](#) celebration that brought ALFA mentors together with writing students; and the [post-mortem](#) discussion of

capstone projects created by students in the game design program.

[Burg Blog](#)

Signing off for 2023-24

This is the final edition of the Fitchburg State University Today newsletter for the 2023-24 academic year. Keep up with [news](#) this summer by visiting the university website, and be sure to visit the [digital magazine](#) site that is updated year-round. Also, be sure to follow the university's social media channels by clicking on the icons at the bottom of this newsletter.

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