



### **Tributes**

*Luis Proenza*

Alex Arshinkoff, as chair of the Board of Trustees that hired me, loved The University of Akron and intuitively understood it was a far better university than anyone had acknowledged. He, along with Gene Wadell and Howard Flood—the Board’s then executive committee—challenged me to make it better known by “telling our story” in the media! That was the genesis of our marketing campaign for which Alex insisted I be the spokesperson.

Dick Pogue, chair of the BOT when I ended my tenure as president and known as Mr. Cleveland, should really be credited and known for the economic reality of Northeast

Ohio as a region and for the role of The University of Akron in NEO. He chaired the Governor's Commission on higher education and the economy and came to love the University, making countless trips to Akron that enabled him to tell his colleagues in Cleveland that the distance between Cleveland and Akron was really the same in both directions.

Becky Hover and Candace Campbell Jackson, my two executive assistants to the president, were able, diligent and trusted, and hugely important in the success of my tenure as president. Becky and I met at Purdue, and her knowledge of Akron and the University helped my first few years enormously. Candace joined the team later, but brought her consummate interpersonal skills and knowledge of the larger community to bear on our office. Both later became UA vice presidents, Becky in HR and Candace in student affairs, strategic initiatives and as chief of staff.

Nancy Noonan and Christine Zacharias were my two key administrative assistants. Nancy died unexpectedly, and Chris came on board a year later and served me admirably, selflessly, and with distinction, integrity, and dedication. I salute them both.

Our mascot is an adorable kangaroo that we affectionately call Zippy, but you must know that this kangaroo is bullish on Akron and Ohio. It packs quite a punch, puts quite a zip into everything we do, and is always one giant leap ahead of the competition.

Four living presidents were available for me to consult

with when I arrived in 1999—Norman Auburn, Dom Guzzetta, Bill Muse, and Marion Ruebel—and all gave me sage advice. Of course, Norm Auburn, who presided over The University of Akron's second cycle of expansion and it becoming a state university, intuitively understood what the University could yet become and championed our new strategic directions as outlined in "Charting the Course."

Early in my tenure, several colleagues served as an informal advisory body. Among them were Mark Auburn and John Green, who remained powerfully influential and went on to contribute in many key roles.

Ted Mallo and Russ Sibert, respectively as university general counsel and secretary to the BOT and assistant secretary, saw to it that we did our business well and in keeping with Ohio Law and best practices in higher education. Ted was the longest serving university general counsel in Ohio before his retirement in 2016.

Ted Curtis made it possible for us to realize the new landscape for learning, optimally managing our modest resources, and enabling the complete physical transformation of our campus.

When we searched for a chief communications marketing officer, Eileen Korey and Wayne Hill were in the applicant pool, and it was obvious, given their extraordinary experience, that we had to hire them both! Eileen was the consummate chief communications officer who was exceptional in being able to know my mind. With Eileen's departure,

Wayne now has taken up both roles.

George Newkome and team at The University of Akron Research Foundation (UARF) capitalized on our high rate on intellectual property production and created UARF as a university-related entity that spanned the boundary between the public and private sectors.