

1806 Stillwater Drive
Raleigh, NC 27607
December 16, 2013

Mr. William Funk
R. William Funk & Associates
100 Highland Park Village
Dallas, Texas 75205

Dear Mr. Funk,

Thank you for your recent letter informing me of my nomination for the President of Florida Polytechnic University. I agree this is one of the most exciting initiatives in STEM education, and I am delighted to be nominated as a candidate. With the right visionary leader, a new STEM-based higher education institution that honors academic traditions while incorporating modern business practices will surely promote excellence and innovation in Florida's high-tech industry.

Having demonstrated the ability to build and lead successful strategic initiatives at several institutions, I feel I am well suited for this task. As outlined in my Curriculum Vitae, I have broad experience in the life and engineering sciences with academic, industry, government, national laboratory, and start-up experience. I have a strong history of visionary leadership in diverse environments and experience in connecting universities with industry and government. I also have experience in leading and managing strategic initiatives, and I have been involved in several of the policy debates surrounding the US technology base including H1B Visas, STEM education, and manufacturing.

As an innovative leader I will grow Florida Polytechnic University into a premier STEM University by building strong alliances with industry and preparing students for today's complex workforce. But since most companies no longer offer lifetime employment, we must also strive to insure our students become lifetime employable. We will accomplish this by offering strong classroom programs combined with Co-ops and internships, the single most important factor in predicting whether graduates are employed. We will be responsive to national trends like the advanced manufacturing initiatives, cyber-security, data science, and others and introduce a project-based curriculum like that at Olin College or at our Institute for Advanced Analytics at NC State.

As I hope you see, I have many talents matched to today's public institutional needs like business acumen, leadership skills, personnel and fiscal management, industry connections and government service. I am very interested in this leadership position and would welcome the opportunity to further discuss my initiatives and philosophies with the search committee. I appreciate your consideration and welcome any questions you may have concerning my application.

Best,



Randy K. Avent