April 7, 2026

Dear Faculty, Staff, and Students,

As we move forward with our Rutgers Newark priorities and the RU-N Roadmap (strategic plan), I am writing to announce that we will begin a national search for our next Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs.

I sincerely appreciate Provost Jeffrey Robinson for his service to Rutgers-Newark. He has provided valued leadership as Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor, and I am especially grateful for his service as Interim Chancellor from 2024–2025 during a particularly challenging period for the university. Provost Robinson will conclude his appointment on August 31st and will transition to another professional opportunity. An Interim Provost will be named and will begin service on September 1 as we conduct the national search.

We are pleased to partner with Isaacson, Miller (https://www.isaacsonmiller.com/) to support this search. Their expertise in higher education executive leadership searches will be invaluable, and we are delighted to continue our partnership following their leadership of the Rutgers-Newark Chancellor search last year. Their inclusive and university-centered process was most welcome and impactful, as they positioned us for a successful search last year.
Kate Barry, Managing Partner, and Alycia Johnson, Managing Associate, will conduct a series of virtual campus listening sessions between mid-April and early May to help inform the leadership profile for the next provost. In parallel, we will form a search committee with representatives from staff, students, faculty, and administrators, as well as partners in governance.

Thank you for your continued engagement and partnership as we move forward with the RU-N Roadmap and the search for our next provost.

Sincerely,

Tonya Smith-Jackson, PhD, CPE
Chancellor

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