

Curaçao March 23, 2025

Search and Consultation Committee UPR 2025  
Universidad de Puerto Rico  
Puerto Rico

Dear Members of the Search Committee,

It is with great enthusiasm and the highest regard that I write this letter in support of Dr. Wilma Santiago's candidacy for the esteemed position of President of the University of Puerto Rico (UPR). Dr. Santiago has dedicated three decades of unwavering service to the University of Puerto Rico in various leadership capacities, in addition to her impactful contributions as an educator. Her extensive experience, commitment to academic excellence, and visionary leadership make her an exemplary candidate for this role.

Dr. Santiago's tenure at the UPR system has been marked by a deep understanding of higher education administration, student success, and institutional development. Her leadership as Chancellor at both the University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez and UPR Utuado demonstrates her ability to navigate complex institutional landscapes, foster academic innovation, and implement policies that enhance the university's standing as a premier institution of higher learning. Under her guidance, these campuses flourished, witnessing advancements in faculty development, research opportunities, and student engagement.

Dr. Santiago has previously served as Vice-President of the University of Puerto Rico, where she demonstrated exceptional leadership in academic and institutional development. Additionally, over the past five years, she has been extremely active in advancing the mission of Universities Caribbean, playing a key role within our executive committee in fostering collaboration and strengthening regional academic ties. Her unwavering commitment to higher education, both within Puerto Rico and across the Caribbean, has significantly contributed to institutional growth and cross-border partnerships.

Dr. Santiago's vision for the University of Puerto Rico aligns with the institution's long-standing traditions while also embracing forward-thinking strategies to address contemporary challenges in higher education. Her leadership is characterized by integrity, collaboration, and a steadfast dedication to the university's mission of providing accessible and high-quality education.

I strongly and unequivocally support Dr. Wilma Santiago's candidacy for the Presidency of the University of Puerto Rico. Her vast experience, strategic mindset, and firm commitment to academic excellence and institutional growth make her the ideal choice to lead UPR into a future of continued success and innovation. Dr. Santiago is exceptionally well-positioned to lead the university into a future of continued excellence and innovation. I urge the committee to consider her exceptional qualifications and dedication in making their selection.

Should you require any further insights or information regarding Dr. Santiago's qualifications, I would be more than happy to provide additional details.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large, sweeping loop followed by a smaller, more intricate flourish.

Dr. Francis de Lanoy

Former Rector Magnificus of the University of Curaçao  
Former Vice-President Outreach & Partnership Universities Caribbean