



March 24, 2025

Dear Members of the Governing Board Committee for the Search and Consultation of the UPR President:

It is a pleasure to recommend Professor Wilma L. Santiago Gabrielini for the position of University of Puerto Rico (UPR) President. I have known Professor Santiago Gabrielini for more than 25 years. I was the Chancellor of the UPRMayaguez who selected her as the Director of Institutional Research and Planning in 1999.

During her tenure as Director, she established a system to allow the institution to make data-informed decisions. She led the team for the design of multiple new facilities and the renovation of many others, including the new building for the College of Business. Professor Santiago Gabrielini also assisted me in the advocacy for funds for these projects. Almost 20 years later in 2018, while she was serving as Acting Chancellor of that same institution, I had the opportunity to work with her in establishing a collaboration between the UPRMayaguez and Central Connecticut State University (CCSU) where I have served as President for the last eight years.

Professor Santiago Gabrielini's extensive academic and administrative leadership experience demonstrates her understanding of the complex role of a public higher education system president. She is well-versed in the diverse set of responsibilities, challenges, and opportunities associated with the UPR President position. In today's public higher education landscape, it is imperative that the leader of a system like UPR has lived the institutional culture and demonstrated success with community engagement and philanthropic endeavors. A commitment to student success and experience in establishing partnerships and collaborations with industry and other academic entities is also critical. Professor Santiago Gabrielini meets all these requirements.

Professor Santiago Gabrielini is a strong communicator, an affable individual, a compassionate leader, and a thoughtful listener. As a graduate, former faculty member and administrator of the UPRMayaguez, and based on my many years of experience in selecting and mentoring higher education leaders, I strongly recommend Professor Santiago Gabrielini to lead the UPR System to its next level of academic excellence and recognition.

I appreciate your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Zulma R. Toro".

Zulma R. Toro
President

Office of the President

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