Dear Pace Students and Families,

A college education has never been more important.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, workers with bachelor’s degrees earn an average of more than $51,000 a year, while those with a high school diploma earn less than $28,000. Similar differences are seen in unemployment rates for those with and without a higher education degree.

This earnings disparity will grow. Increasingly sophisticated technology and analytic requirements in the marketplace will intensify the demand for educated professionals. Pace strives to stay one step ahead of these requirements so our graduates can excel in the workplace.

The Pace Board of Trustees and University leadership are acutely aware of the financial pressures students and their families face, and the decision to raise tuition is never an easy one. The 3.5 percent increase for the 2016–2017 academic year, while less than the tuition increases of the past few years, will raise undergraduate tuition before financial aid to $41,120 annually.

Despite this increase, we remain committed to access and affordability. Pace distributed more than $152,420,774 in University scholarships and grants to students and their families last year. We expect to award, as much, if not more, in scholarships and grants this year.

Pace students enjoy a distinctive educational experience. The University’s powerful combination of liberal arts, professional preparation, and a wide range of internships and other real-world learning opportunities position our graduates for successful careers and lives. When our students decide to invest in a Pace education the decision is often one of the best choices they ever make. Payscale.com rates Pace in the top 11 percent of U.S. colleges for providing a strong return on tuition investment and we will continue to work hard to position our students for successful careers and lives.

Pace’s job placement rates have increased every year for the past few years and are at an all-time high. Ninety-four percent of our 2014 graduate degree holders and 82 percent (95 percent for those who participate in our Career Services program) of our undergraduate degree holders work professionally within the first year after graduation.

As you begin to plan for the next academic year, I encourage you to visit our Office of Student Assistance website at www.pace.edu/office-student-assistance. There you will find a host of information about financial aid, scholarships, student accounts, and registrar services. The professionals in our Financial Aid Call Center also stand ready to assist you at 1 (877) 672-1830.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees and everyone at the University, I thank you for your commitment to Pace.

Sincerely yours,

Stephen J. Friedman