

To the UWF Board of Trustees and Interim President Diaz,

I agree with the sentiment regarding UWF's fiduciary responsibility, as expressed in the comments from a concerned Argonaut below. However, I would like to add my perspective.

First, I want to thank the Board of Trustees for acknowledging my eight years of service on the University of West Florida (UWF) Board. It has truly been an honor to serve my alma mater, our faculty, staff, students, and the Northwest Florida region.

Here is my message today. I hope President Diaz can transcend political divisions and tribalism and excel in his role, achieving meaningful results that will earn praise and reflect the legacy of the last two UWF Presidents and community leaders. The university is on a promising trajectory, and the data confirm this fact. We need the Board of Trustees and President Diaz exhibit courage, self-discipline, wisdom, and commitment to justice necessary to inspire confidence and pride in their leadership.

Given the divisive political climate affecting education in our Northwest Florida community and beyond, I hope the Board and President Diaz will dedicate their time, energy, and efforts to excel and refine the educational practices required to be a top-tier Board and University President. Addressing community concerns explicitly can foster trust, communication, commitment, and demonstrate responsiveness to local needs.

The Board and President Diaz face a significant challenge: to build the university's stature and credibility while strengthening community relations among UWF students, faculty, and staff, as well as the Northwest Florida community. This feat can be achieved through courage, self-control, wisdom, outreach programs, and collaborative initiatives.

Like every objective observer, I want success for UWF. I believe it is vital for the Board and President Diaz to engage with the community actively. This approach will help build trust and a shared sense of purpose, which are essential to strengthening the university's foundation and reputation.

Thank you, Board of Trustees and Interim President Diaz, for making my final months as a UWF Board member both engaging, memorable, and meaningful. I hope your dedication reflects the shared commitment to service that I and others hold dearly.

Sincerely,

Alonzie Scott III
UWF Aluma