September 16, 2021

Dear Campus Community,

Today marks an exciting milestone for our community, as we celebrate an extraordinary gift to the university from the Elaine Nicpon Marieb Charitable Foundation, named for one of our most distinguished nursing alumnae, Dr. Elaine Nicpon Marieb, an influential, nationally recognized nursing educator and renowned textbook author.

The $21.5 million gift is the largest cash gift in UMass Amherst history, and with it, the College of Nursing will become the Elaine Marieb College of Nursing in honor of Dr. Marieb. This gift recognizes the tireless dedication to excellence and innovation so evident among our nursing faculty and staff, and to the leadership of Dean Allison Vorderstrasse. The funding will advance our nursing engineering program, which pioneers innovation through the intersection of nursing, engineering and research. The gift will also provide support for student scholarships and an endowed professorship, as well as mentorship and research initiatives to expand equity and excellence in nursing education.

The university has a responsibility to seek solutions and improve the human condition. Today, through the generosity of the Elaine Nicpon Marieb Charitable Foundation, we resoundingly reaffirm that promise. As a center of discovery, the Elaine Marieb College of Nursing will strengthen the vital connection between teaching and practice, and create a new generation of leaders to advance the field.

This exciting time in our history celebrates the enduring inspiration of Dr. Marieb, who earned a master of science degree from the university, with a specialization in gerontology, and a Ph.D. in zoology. Although Dr. Marieb passed away in 2018 at age 82, her legacy continues as one of the most influential nursing educators in the country. When her students complained that their textbooks were ineffective, she began writing her own, ultimately authoring or co-authoring more than 10 bestselling textbooks and laboratory manuals on anatomy and physiology. More than 3 million nurses and healthcare professionals practicing today learned through her educational material.

The role of public research universities has never been more critical, and the need for educational access and opportunity never more urgent. I am honored to lead this institution, whose excellence is defined by our faculty, students and staff, and the generosity of the Elaine Nicpon Marieb Charitable Foundation, and
all our donors who believe in this university as much as I do. Together, we are driving a revolutionary transformation.

Sincerely,

Chancellor Kumble R. Subbaswamy

University of Massachusetts Amherst