

March 20, 2024

Dear Faculty, Staff, and Students:

Based on the recommendation of the faculty and approval by the Board of Trustees, I am pleased to announce that John Zeller '73 will serve as Elmira College's commencement speaker on May 19th.

John began his college career at Corning Community College, graduating with an associate's degree in 1971. He then attended Elmira College and graduated in 1973 with a bachelor's in General Studies. He soon returned and received his master's in Education in 1978.

John has stayed connected to higher education throughout his career, including four years as Director of Admissions at Elmira College. He has shown great aptitude for development work and retired as Vice President for Development and Alumni Relations at the University of Pennsylvania in August 2022. At Penn he launched many successful fundraising campaigns, including the Power of Penn Campaign, which raised \$5.4 billion, exceeding the campaign's goal, and the Making History Campaign, which also beat its goal, raising more than \$4.3 billion.

John has been a member of the Association of American Medical Colleges, Council for Advancement and Support to Education, National Society for Fund Raising Executives, and Penn Club in New York City.

In 1998, Corning Community College awarded John with the Distinguished Alumni Award, recognizing him as a positive role model who is involved in his community and for exhibiting accomplishments in his field. Elmira College's Bette A. Mammone '78 Memorial Academy honored John in May 2022. Honorees must have received their undergraduate or graduate degree from Elmira College and have achieved a high level of professional success in a minimum 20-year career.

We look forward to welcoming John back to campus in May for Commencement activities.

Sincerely,

Chuck Lindsay, PhD

President