



**FRAMINGHAM
STATE
UNIVERSITY**

Commissioner Noe Ortega
Department of Higher Education
One Ashburton Place, Room 1401
Boston, MA 02108

January 19, 2024

Dear Commissioner Ortega,

On behalf of the Board of Trustees at Framingham State University, and in accordance with M.G.L. c 15a, s 9(m), I ask your consideration of this request to name the existing unnamed building located at 45 Adams Road in Framingham to **The Joan E. Murtaugh '61 Alumni Center**.

As required, the Framingham State University Trustees will review and consider a motion at their January 24, 2024 meeting to advance this recommendation to the Board of Higher Education for their review and determination.

Joan E. Murtaugh, who graduated from Framingham State in 1961 with a Bachelor's Degree in Education, devoted her career to public education. Initially as an elementary school teacher, and later as an elementary-level literacy specialist, she embodied the values of Framingham State to educate leaders for lives of ethical citizenship, global stewardship, and public purpose and commitment—values that she continued to embody over the course of her career.

Since her graduation, Joan has been a very active and devoted alumna of the University. She is a regular presence on campus, at University and alumni events, and has never declined any request for her time and expertise. She has served on the Board of Directors of the Framingham State University Foundation, Inc. since 2017 and consistently has been a very generous supporter of Framingham State and our students.

She has also been a very generous donor to the University. To date, she has given nearly \$370,000, including establishing five endowed funds through the FSU Foundation totaling approximately \$227,225, has made multiple gifts to support initiatives at the Whittemore Library (\$15,240), multiple gifts to support the University's Lifelong Learning Program (\$49,752), and has made a major gift (\$30,894) to support the University's Danforth Art Museum. Each of these gifts have had, and continue to have, a significant impact on the quality of the programs offered by the University and the students whom we serve. She has also made the University and Foundation a primary beneficiary of her estate, with an estimated current value of at least \$800,000.

I welcome a conversation with you and the Board regarding this request and appreciate your attention and consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nancy S. Niemi'.

Nancy S. Niemi, Ph.D
President