**DR. HELEN BENJAMIN – RETIREMENT**

Dear District colleagues,

I do hope your semester is going well and that 2016 is a great year for you.  I want to share some important news of mine with you.  I will be retiring effective December 31 of this year.

I began my tenure in 4CD in July of 1990.  What an incredible ride this has been for me!  I could not have worked in a better place.  I have been allowed to grow, develop and contribute alongside many of you as we have transformed the lives of thousands students.  For that, I am grateful.

There are so many folks I just have to thank.  Here is the short list:

               Chet Case who hired me as an unknown for my very first job in the District at LMC;

               Trustees MacDiarmid, Grilli, Nejedly, Anthony Gordon, and Marquez who trusted, supported, guided and mentored me in my chancellor role;

               Dr. Bob Jensen who saw more in me than I saw in myself;

               McKinley Williams who taught me how to be a college president;

               every management team of which I have had the pleasure of being a part;

members of the Sabbatical Leave Committees through the years for providing me a Ground Hog Day experience annually;

               classified senate, Academic Senate, Local 1, UF and management leadership over these many years;

               our students; and

everyone of you for inspiring me along this journey.

Thank you!!!

Helen