I am honored to be the 4th president of Showa Boston Institute. After a long career in both Japanese and American universities, including four years as president of Yokohama City University and 13 years as dean of Temple University’s campus in Japan, TUJ, I now have the amazing opportunity to lead Japan’s premier campus in the United States.

As a member of the Showa Boston Institute Board, I already feel as if I am a part of the Showa Women’s University/SBI family. I also feel that I have had some role in supporting SWU’s globalization by partnering with Chancellor Bando to bring TUJ to SWU. I am proud of the TUJ/SWU relationship and the collaborative programs we created.

This position brings together so many positive points for me. I was raised in Maine but born in Weymouth and have had close ties to Boston for much of my life. Over the last 49 years, 14 have been spent in Boston and Worcester and 35 in Tokyo, Yokohama, and Niigata. Given my familiarity with Boston/New England and Japan, I hope that I can help to strengthen ties between the two.

More importantly, I have spent much of the past twenty years advising Japanese universities about reform and globalization. That is what makes the opportunity to lead SBI so exciting. It is one of only a very few full campuses of a Japanese university in the United States and it has the potential to become a model for how Japanese universities can develop overseas campuses in the process of globalization.

Globalization is the key for the development of both Japanese and American universities over the next decade, and the key to educating a new generation of Japanese and Americans who will live in a globalized world. In addition, the Japanese-American relationship is the most important for both countries and that relationship will only remain strong by maintaining cross-national educational and social ties.

SWU is rapidly globalizing and SBI will one of the key factors in its continued progress. What do I mean by globalization? It is very simple. In order for universities to remain successful they must be able to give their students access to study abroad, they must be able to recruit foreign students, they must be able to recruit foreign faculty, and they must be able to develop foreign resources.

As the past leader of an overseas campus, I know how important the collaboration and communication with the main campus is, and I also know the importance of partnering with universities in the host country. By having the opportunity to interact with non-Japanese students, non-Japanese cultures and non-Japanese languages, SWU and SBI students will be key resources in the development of a globalized Japan.

I am truly excited to play a part in the continuing development of SBI, and SWU.