

Aug. 2, 2017

Good afternoon,

Please allow me to share some summer activities as we begin August and approach the beginning of the fall semester in a few weeks.

Facilities. We have been busy this summer with a number of paving projects completed. Renovations to Pullen Hall continue, and we hope to have more student services located in Pullen this fall. We will begin renovations on several residence halls beginning with Annapolis Hall. We are also moving along with the design of the new residence hall, which will be located near the Chesapeake Dining Hall. Lastly, we received additional funding for the Education and Health Sciences building and just had a “pre-bid” meeting for potential designers of that building.

Budget. Recognizing the importance of the strategic plan, we are going to reallocate \$300,000 of our \$100+ million overall budget to jump-start some of our strategic initiatives. We held a planning meeting last week with members of PACIE and the University Advisory Council, which included faculty, staff, SGA leadership and the VPs, to determine the focus for the upcoming year. I will offer more on that when we meet in the first week of the semester to hear about the state of the university. Please join me on **Thursday, Aug. 31, at 3:30 p.m.** in the Pealer Recital Hall.

Summer Camps & Programs. We had many successful camps and programs this summer involving elementary-age to college-age students, including a number of international students. Thanks to all who made the summer camps and programs so successful and contributed to an active campus life this summer.

New Faces. We have many new individuals who are joining us for the coming semester or who have come in recent months. Among the new community members is our provost, Dr. Liz Throop, who began her position on July 3. I hope everyone will plan to come welcome these new faculty and staff at a reception on **Tuesday, Aug. 22, at 3:30 p.m.** in the Lane University Center.

Sneak Preview on My Priorities. Among the items I will be working on this fall (and will discuss on **Aug. 31**) are

1. Completion of the strategic plan with measureable annual goals and benchmarks,
2. Continued focus on student recruitment and improving our graduation rate, and
3. Getting our University community (faculty, staff and students) more engaged in the regional community.