March 2017

Even though the snow makes the campus look more like winter than spring, I'm glad we're seeing longer days. Soon enough, spring weather will truly be here, and we will enter into the "LoKo" time of year for our campus. It has been a busy semester, but I believe we are making progress on many of our goals.

Budget
This is budget season in Albany, and my fellow SUNY presidents and I have been advocating forcefully for support of higher education. Although it will be a few weeks before we will see a final budget passed and there is still time for more advocacy, I am cautiously optimistic about the outcome. On our own campus, we are working hard to meet our fall enrollment targets. But our forecasts show that this will be a very challenging year, and as enrollment provides the greatest portion of our budget, the President’s Council is working hard on strategies to reduce costs. Education is a people-intensive enterprise, and thus we are looking hard at each vacancy. Please be reminded that for all but the most critical positions, there is a six-month wait before positions can be filled, and we are asking the campus to think creatively about what activities we can stop doing or do more efficiently.

President’s Council Meeting Notes Online
In our continuing attempt to communicate with the campus, beginning in January, meeting notes from all President’s Council (PC) meetings have been posted on our website at: www.potsdam.edu/pcnotes. I hope you find these notes informative.

Honorary Degree Nominations
I invite the campus to assist in identifying future Honorary Degree recipients. Nominees for an honorary degree must be distinguished and their achievements must be both relevant and appropriate to our campus. The nominee may be an alumna/us. The nominee may be someone with national or international prominence in a discipline in which our campus has a program, or someone who has achieved national or international prominence in their own field. Nominations are due no later than May 1 to Carol Rourke at rourkecm@potsdam.edu. Please see the full guidelines for nominations on the website at www.potsdam.edu/hd

DEI Strategic Plan
Our strategic plan for diversity, equity, and inclusion was accepted by SUNY and lauded as exceptional. In a letter from Vice Chancellor Carlos Medina, our plan was called “outstanding for many reasons… Potsdam’s notable commitments to inclusion and diversity and its collaborative spirit should have a significant positive impact on the implementation process.” My thanks to Dr. Bernadette Tiapo, who led this strategic planning effort, the members of the strategic planning task force, and the campus community for such a strong effort.

Campus Strategic Plan
The campus continues its work on overall strategic planning. A team of faculty
members and campus leaders has been appointed to begin fleshing out the broader strategic planning goals and developing plans for implementation, and they have been charged with completing a draft by the end of the semester. For more information on the strategic plan or to view all of our strategic planning documents, please consult the website at **www.potsdam.edu/strategicplanning**

**Immigration**
As you know, the situation surrounding immigration and the executive orders signed by President Trump is fluid and one that the College and SUNY are working to keep on top of. If employees have any questions or concerns about their immigration status, please direct your questions to Mary Dolan in Human Resources. Krista LaVack in International Education is keeping track of any students who may be affected by these orders.

Chancellor Nancy Zimpher and the Chairman of the SUNY Board of Trustees put out a statement in late January on this topic that you can read at: **www.suny.edu/1-29-17/statement** More information on immigration is available through SUNY at: **https://www.suny.edu/immigration/** I also signed onto a letter sponsored by the American Council on Education expressing our concerns. You can see that letter at **www.acenet.edu/letter**

**Using BearExpress in the Community**
Did you know you can use your SUNY Card at local businesses? And every time you use your SUNY card at a local merchant, a commission is returned to the campus. I encourage you to consider how you can support the campus financially simply by using your SUNY card. A list of businesses that accept our cards can be found here: **www.potsdam.edu/merchantslist**.

**Office of Civil Rights Visit**
I want to thank those who took time out of your schedules to attend the open meetings with representatives from the US Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights on March 20 and 21. We are proud of the progress we have made in the past few years in improving the process and increasing support for victims of sexual abuse. The creation of the Title IX core team has been an important addition in helping the campus create a better process for victims and survivors and those who have been accused. I’d like to thank Dr. Bernadette Tiapo and Stacey Basford for their efforts, and remind the campus that there are many resources on campus for victims and survivors of sexual assault. For more information on Title IX, please feel free to contact Stacey Basford at basforsl@potsdam.edu.

**Dean of School of Education & Professional Studies Search**
Unfortunately, our search for a new Dean for the School of Education and Professional Studies has failed. We were not able to come to agreement on a contract with our final candidate. Provost Bergeron and I are working together on next steps in this process and will keep you abreast of those plans as they are finalized.
LoKo Festival of the Arts 2017
The Lougheed-Kofoed (LoKo) Festival of the Arts takes place this spring, **April 28 – May 7**. This year, we have more than 20 visiting artists offering workshops, demonstrations, lectures, performances, and readings. The full schedule and biographies of all the visiting artists can be found online at: [www.potsdam.edu/loko](http://www.potsdam.edu/loko).

Faculty and staff are welcome to apply for funding for 2018 or a later Festival if advance booking is needed for an artist. The next LoKo Festival will take place April 27 – May 6, 2018. **The deadline to submit proposals is April 5, 2017.** Information on the funding parameters and application can be found online at [www.potsdam.edu/loko](http://www.potsdam.edu/loko)

As we head toward spring break, we have the opportunity to pause just before the busiest time of the semester. This is also the time when prospective students are considering whether they want to become a member of the Potsdam family. I hope you’ll join me in welcoming prospective students on our campus, helping them feel at home, and showing them the warmth and close connection to faculty and staff that is the hallmark of a Potsdam education. Every student counts, and I am grateful for all you do to support our students’ success.