

Welcome Back Colleagues! |

September 5, 2017

Colleagues, welcome back! I hope all of you had a very enriching and relaxing summer. For those of you returning to campus, we're delighted to have you back for what will be another exciting year for our institution. As faculty and staff, you are essential in shaping our campus culture and overall academic environment for our students. I thank you all for the great work that you do to make the University of Michigan-Flint a successful regional comprehensive serving this community and beyond.

As we begin a new semester and the 2017-2018 academic year, it's important to briefly reflect on the national landscape and its influence on our work to secure a positive and inclusive learning environment for our students here at UM-Flint.

A lot has transpired across our state and nation over the past several months. Civic discourse appears to be at an all-time low. As an institution of higher learning, it's incumbent upon us to create a safe environment where all ideas can be exchanged with civility and respect. Our campus must maintain the tenets of inclusiveness and tolerance while also protecting every person's right to free speech. We should all be mindful of these values as we work over the next year to cultivate a productive campus environment that fosters student achievement and success.

Last year we came together as a campus to accomplish some major initiatives. We completed a campus climate survey as well as a comprehensive process that yielded our five Strategic Priorities.

As most of you know, the results from the campus climate survey pointed to both challenges and opportunities for our campus, which our leadership team is committed to working with the entire campus community to improve upon. You will learn more about our efforts in the weeks ahead.

Our campus also collectively developed and approved our five Strategic Priorities which will serve as a road map guiding our continued efforts toward a successful future. Over the next few weeks you will also learn more about how we plan to implement these priorities across our operations.

Again, I'd like to thank all of you who participated in both of these important processes as I truly believe it will position our institution as a leader in student success for years to come.

I truly look forward to engaging with you this upcoming school year as we collectively work to create a proud campus community that supports everyone in achieving their full potential. Thank you for your commitment and dedication to UM-Flint and as always Go Blue!

Warm Regards,

Sue

Susan E. Borrego, Ph.D.
Chancellor