

## **President's Perspective (Faculty & Staff)**

**Welcome to fall semester; let's reach out and connect with each other**

Welcome to fall semester at Oakland University. I hope you've had an enjoyable summer, and are as excited as I am for the upcoming academic year.

As we begin a new semester, it's a timely occasion to appreciate our connectedness to each other, and reaffirm our shared goal of making Oakland University a great institution of higher learning and a model campus for diversity, equity and inclusion.

Together, we have navigated the winding road of the pandemic. And now, we look toward the promising future and doing all we can to support the aspirations and success of our students, faculty and staff.

Like other universities, we are coming to terms with the consequences of an unexpected public health crisis, and the profound changes recasting the higher education landscape. These factors include a decline in enrollment, unpredictable long-term levels of state funding, a lack of diversified revenue sources, and a budget shortfall.

As a result of these forces, we must "right-size the budget" and position Oakland University for sustainable, strategic growth. That process is underway, and we will keep the community abreast of developments.

Concurrent to considering expenditure reductions and "right sizing," the university leadership team continues to pursue timely revenue generating initiatives and other means of support, including seeking to increase donations, building partnerships and attracting grants.

We've been through a lot together. Among the many lessons of the past two-and-a-half years is that we are strongest as a community when we collaborate and stand together. On Tuesday, September 13, please join us at the Oakland Center for what we hope will be an annual tradition, our "OU Forward:

Welcome" event. (***Details will be posted on the OU home page.***)

In the next month, I look forward to, once again, being a familiar face on campus, and getting to know as many of you as possible.

Go Grizzlies!

Ora