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## July 10, 2017 - From the President's Desk

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*Wright State University - Main Campus*

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Dear Wright State Family,

It was with great pride and enthusiasm that I began work last week as the seventh president of Wright State University.

The journey that has brought me here has taught me some of life's important lessons—how to overcome challenges through perseverance and collaboration, to leverage diversity as a strength, and to recognize that shared success is our greatest fortune. All of it, all of these lessons and more, are rooted in my experiences helping students realize their dreams. I trust you would say the same. It is our collective calling. Thank you for letting me join you in this noble endeavor.

I arrive at Wright State University with knowledge gained from my experiences in higher education, and I believe, as your president, I will gain further invaluable wisdom from you.

We will begin working together on a comprehensive strategic plan that ensures financial sustainability for Wright State, and that fosters a campus atmosphere aimed at providing our graduates opportunities to excel in fields that define the future and our region.

I have spent much of my short time on campus focusing on meeting many of you. In my first week I filled my time with a singular goal in mind: begin our campus conversation. To start, I met with your representatives from faculty, staff, Student Government, alumni, retirees, and the Wright State Foundation. We also shared laughs, stories, and thoughtful aspirations at the welcome reception in the Student Union. It is my hope that these are the beginnings of a never-ending campus conversation that bears fruit for all of us, but most of all for those seeking to better themselves and their families through higher education.

I am committed to communicating and shaping a culture of administrative transparency that includes town halls, campus tours, this monthly message, and a personal goal to visit each campus unit, in time.

But for today I leave you with one question and a request for a little help. As we begin to work on our comprehensive plan to shape our future, consider this question:

*Imagine that it is ten years from now and Wright State University has met its most important goals. What does the university look like and how is it different from today?*

Some of you may remember this question from my fora when I was a candidate to lead this accomplished university. I find responses to this question to be a helpful barometer for shaping our shared vision.

Please consider sharing your responses with me at [wright.edu/president](http://wright.edu/president) so we can begin a conversation that will lay the foundation for our future. You have emerged from recent challenges stronger than you were before, with better systems and better checks. But this work is not done. We are leaner, but it is also time to lean in.

We must embrace our bright future together with an eager and unwavering commitment to our students' success. It is through our collective and concerted effort that we can realize a vision through which Wright State University, built upon five decades of accrued success, can not only sustain itself but can also flourish for another 50 years.

Warmest regards,

Cheryl B. Schrader

President

[Return to the previous page](#)

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