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July 9, 2017: Weekly Message from Interim President Curtis McCray

Curtis L. McCray
Wright State University - Main Campus

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June 9, 2017: Weekly message from Interim President Curtis McCray

Dear Campus Community,

Life's patterns are repeated time and again, or so it seems in my 80th year. Life and death and life are as definite as the seasons. Summer and winter and summer are two halves of the same experience--no summer, no winter, and on it goes.

Just so our experience at Wright State. We have come through a harsh winter. And we could leave it at that, nourish our cherished negative attitudes, and not look to the future. But I have faith--also a benefit of my 80th year--that we are prepared for a new journey, a new beginning as this summer season begins.

In this, the university's 50th year, there is every reason to believe that it is also ready--because of what we have gone through--to succeed in its next 50 years. As we emerge from this challenge, let's focus our righteous emotions on ensuring Wright State University remains the superb teaching and learning center it always has been. For, despite a storm of tough choices, the winter did not snow us in. We survived it and sunnier days are ahead. For indeed I am optimistic about the university.

This is a very good place and it has a bright future. We must not, however, once again be overcome by unsupported and unsupportable exuberance, by blind optimism. We have begun to steward our resources and we must continue. Our budget remains fragile; our enrollment, and hence our income, is uncertain. We cannot rest easily until we are confident of our strength--perhaps, not even then.

As I have learned in my short four months here, we have a vast residual of goodwill, strength, and passion that serves us well. Renewed strategic planning across the university for our future and for a rational approach to the many challenges that confront us must begin again. We should also be able to better address questions some have raised about the missions and purposes of university organizations and programs. Your next president, Dr. Cheryl B. Schrader, will play a central role in these efforts. She is committed to new comprehensive planning that makes better use of our talents and resources, and answers the question of "what ought we be?"

In the process of planning for our future, we must unite to steadily reinforce our good standing in the world of education and with the community that we have supported and partnered with for five decades.

There is much to do and there is much good that is possible. I urge you to join together in support of your new president and in the drive to a renewed institution.

Curtis L. McCray
Interim President

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