

HO, HO, HO, FOREST PARKERS...

YOU'VE PROBABLY FIGURED OUT THAT I AM NOT THERE TODAY  
AT OUR ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY.

WHAT DID YOU SAY?

HOW COULD I MISS OUR HOLIDAY PARTY?

BELIEVE ME, IT WAS NOT BY CHOICE. I'D MUCH RATHER BE  
THERE—EATING CHICKEN WINGS AND DRINKING PUNCH—  
THAN FLYING TO IOWA IN DECEMBER.

BUT I'M IN IOWA ON A MISSION THAT'S ULTIMATELY GOING  
TO MEAN A LOT OF GOOD THINGS FOR THE FOREST PARK  
CAMPUS.

CHANCELLOR DORSEY AND I ARE VISITING KIRKWOOD  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE IN CEDAR RAPIDS TO SEE THEIR NEW

HEALTHCARE SIMULATION CENTER, WHICH IS A 12,000-SQUARE-FOOT FACILITY THAT SERVES STUDENTS IN 20 ALLIED HEALTH AND NURSING PROGRAMS AT KIRKWOOD.

OK, I CAN HEAR YOUR QUESTIONS ALREADY: HOW CAN WE EVEN THINK ABOUT A NEW ALLIED HEALTH BUILDING WHEN WE'RE FACING A HUGE BUDGET DEFICIT?

GOOD QUESTION. YOU PROBABLY KNOW THAT ALLIED HEALTH EXPANSION HAS BEEN ON THE TOP OF OUR SHORT LIST OF BUILDING PROJECTS FOR A LONG, LONG TIME.

WE ALSO KNOW THAT THE DEMAND FOR HEALTH CARE SERVICES IS NEVER GOING TO GO AWAY—IN FACT, HEALTH CARE IS ONE OF THE FEW GROWTH AREAS IN THE JOB MARKET TODAY.

SO EVEN IN THE MIDST OF BUDGET SHORTFALLS, WE HAVE TO PLAN FOR THE FUTURE. EXPANDED HEALTH CARE TRAINING REPRESENTS THE FUTURE FOR FOREST PARK.

IF WE DON'T INNOVATE AND OFFER CUTTING-EDGE TRAINING AND FACILITIES, WE'LL LOSE OUR STUDENTS TO THE PROPRIETARY SCHOOLS AND HOSPITALS WITH THEIR OWN PROGRAMS. IT'S THAT SIMPLE.

BUT BACK TO YOU TODAY AND OUR PARTY: EVEN THOUGH I COULDN'T BE WITH YOU, I WANT YOU TO KNOW HOW GRATEFUL I AM FOR YOUR HARD WORK THIS SEMESTER.

IT HAS NOT BEEN AN EASY SEMESTER, WITH A DECREASE IN ENROLLMENT, THE AFOREMENTIONED BUDGET SHORTFALL, VACANCIES IN OUR DEAN POSITIONS, AND PREPARATIONS FOR THE STUDENT CENTER RENOVATION, WHICH MAY DISRUPT AND DISPLACE QUITE A FEW OF YOU IN THE SHORT TERM.

HOWEVER, I TRULY APPRECIATE YOUR TEAMWORK AND YOUR WILLINGNESS TO PERSEVERE IN THE FACE OF CHANGE. I KNOW THAT AT THE HEART OF FOREST PARK IS A CORE OF DEDICATED FACULTY AND STAFF WHO TRULY LOVE THIS CAMPUS AND STRIVE HARD EVERY DAY TO SERVE OUR STUDENTS.

THIS STUDENT CENTER RENOVATION WILL ULTIMATELY CHANGE THE WAY WE SERVE STUDENTS AND ALSO CHANGE THE WAY THEY FIRST SEE US. IT'S A HUGE STEP TOWARD ONE-STOP SERVICES, WHICH ALWAYS HAVE THE GOAL OF PUTTING STUDENTS FIRST.

WE ALSO HAVE MANY OTHER POSITIVE CHANGES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO BRAG ABOUT...I WILL MENTION MORE OF THESE WHEN WE COME BACK IN JANUARY.

SO, IF I DON'T SEE YOU BEFORE THE HOLIDAYS, HAVE A WONDERFUL TIME OFF. RELAX, ENJOY YOUR FAMILIES AND COME BACK REFRESHED FOR THE SPRING SEMESTER.

I WILL SEE YOU AT OUR 2013 OPENING SESSION ON MONDAY,  
JANUARY 7 AT 8:30 A.M. IN THE CAFETERIA.

UNTIL THEN, MERRY CHRISTMAS, HAPPY KWANZAA, HAPPY  
HANNUKAH, HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

I LOOK FORWARD TO STARTING THE NEW YEAR WITH YOU AT  
FOREST PARK!

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