

Twenty-Sixth Message from the President
May 4th, 2022

Colleagues,

It's hard to believe we are in our last month of the school year. I appreciate the dedication you put into your work each and every day, serving in such an important role that can leave a lasting impression. Last week, it was a pleasure to hear Ashlee Piper give the Hollister lecture about her career pivots where she offered assurance to students that they don't need to have their futures planned out as a teenager (or as an adult, for that matter). When she reflected on a memorable teacher, she described someone who instilled *a belief in her* at a time when she did not believe in herself. You all have that opportunity when igniting and nurturing our students, regardless of your role, to pick them up when they may not have hope. Think about those second (or third) chances you might give someone when they fell short of expectations. You can be that hero as we approach the finish line.

Recently, the Board of Trustees held its annual retreat to give feedback on our [strategic priorities](#) and draft outcomes and indicators. It was also a time to share updates about residential hall development. Initially, we will try to retro fit space in the halls for a handful of out-of-state students using some grant funds, and we are also exploring financing to build an additional 200-bed facility. We are currently interviewing for Cabinet roles that align with our strategic priorities ([see white paper](#)) with the anticipated start date of July 1, 2022. We will announce our new colleagues with their bios later this spring at times that align with the schedules of the other institution (if external).

In a couple of weeks, we will undergo our five-year accreditation. In our [executive summary](#), we provide a snapshot of our program, unique strengths and areas for growth. The visit will be virtual (due to COVID), and we plan to provide a Deep Dive summary with feedback at our July Board meeting. At the upcoming May 18 Board meeting, our Deep Dive discussion will focus on the impact of our statewide educator and student programs, as well as the impact we envision in the future. A Board recap session will be sent as a calendar invitation for May 25 at 12:30 p.m.

Last, I'd like to give a shoutout to our Steps Challenge winner, Damariz Posada, for walking a total of 1,317,299 steps during our three week challenge. Remarkable! The winning prize will be a gift card towards a new pair of shoes. The team winner was IN2 and the President's Office (Department 1) with an average of 326,777.2 steps per team member. We had a total of 11,035,482 steps among participants. Thank you all for participating, and Rachel Force for giving us

an incentive to get our bodies moving. Next up: See you at the Kane County Cougars game!

To all the moms out there, and those who have moms, have a wonderful Mother's Day this Sunday. Today is May 4th, so for all of our Star Wars fans, May the 4th Be With You!

Titans Together,
Evan

Dr. Evan M. Glazer
President
