



Chancellor's Office

December 4, 2009

Greetings!

First of all, let me say thank you to all of you who took the time to send me personal notes of congratulations. I couldn't have asked for a better start as chancellor -- with 100% of the Board's unanimous vote of confidence and an outpouring of endorsements from you! Some of you have asked why I would want this position in a time like this (including my dear husband who has his own selfish reasons in protecting my time, health, and sanity) . . .

For me, the journey of leadership mirrors the journey of life – full of trials, tribulations and challenges. This call to duty arrived under a set of circumstances of unprecedented challenges related to fiscal, political and our organizational survival and stability. This call to duty, regardless of time and situation, comes in the name of “opportunity.” I am deeply honored by this new opportunity to be your humble leader at a point of critical importance in our District. This opportunity is not meant for me only, but for ALL OF US! I am but one drop of water, but together with you, we form a mighty ocean! My vision is 20/30 but with you, I can see our District perfectly, far beyond the horizon - as Isaac Newton said, “If I can see further, it is because I am standing on the shoulders of giants.” I am among many giants here.

I will continue the efforts started ten months ago here in the District office when I arrived and started working with all of you and our Board of Trustees. I call upon you to join me in this fight for our survival and stability by defeating the enemy that is standing amongst and within us. WE ourselves will be our own enemy in this battle and WE must not only win the battle, but the war against our own fears of uncertainty, resistance to change, finger pointing habits, forgetting our students, rejections of sacrifice, and a stifling of innovation.

The bugle has sounded and I call upon each and every one of you to help me serve in the following ways while keeping students as the center of our focus:

1. **Know Our Cause** -- It's our students. There is no other! It means we need to sacrifice, change, and charge ahead for this singular and sacred cause, not by words but with our action.
2. **Recognize Our Strengths** -- We must identify, focus, maximize, leverage, capitalize, and exploit all of our strengths to develop and achieve a higher level of success.
3. **Admit Our Weaknesses** -- We must be open and willing to acknowledge where we can grow and learn and commit to the continuous evaluations and improvement processes.
4. **Understand Our Vision** – Let us set our sights high and be bold for small plans cannot stir the soul and neither will it move mountains.

5. **Own Our Plans in Unity** – We may not all always agree, but we still can remain unified in our decisions. If the decision turns out to be wrong in hindsight due to change or circumstance, we can admit the mistake and act accordingly to enact changes.

6. **Pledge to Our Responsibilities** – Each of us has an important role. Let us commit fully to our responsibilities to our students. When tested, only the human spirit can stretch beyond limits time after time.

7. **Prioritize Our Mission** – We have been asked to assess and reevaluate our long and complex missions and decide how, what, and who to serve first while we struggle with even less than our usual limited resources.

8. **Free Ourselves to Innovate** – What would you dare to do if you knew that you cannot fail and that we support your creativity?

9. **Embrace the Changes** – Flexibility to change gives us the capacity to move from good to great. Change has already begun.

10. **Give Honor, Respect, and Trust to Each Other** – The Golden Rule is timeless and priceless. Let's apply this rule in our everyday work life as colleagues, especially under our current circumstance.

Thank you for listening and responding to my bugle call. I stand ready to serve you and support your success. I am also prepared to lead our District with my highest level of integrity and honor and with your collective wisdom and active engagement.

I will be hosting meet and greet sessions at the three campuses and the District site during the week of December 14-18. I am anxious to meet as many of you as possible in person. If you are not able to make it, I will have more regular Chancellor's Forums on your campus starting in February 2010.

Once again, thank you for your wonderful messages and expressions of support. I look forward to working with you to build a strong, vibrant and great institution of higher learning for our students and community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "King Jo".