

August 21, 2017

Dear Iowa State Community:

Welcome to campus! The 2017-2018 academic year will mark a historic era for Iowa State University. For only the sixteenth time in the university's 159 year history, a new president will be named. The Board of Regents is expected to announce the selection in October. You can stay apprised of search developments through the [Presidential Search website](#).

As interim president, I want to position the next president for success by working with you to advance key priorities. First, Iowa State is dedicated to creating a culture where all students, faculty, staff, and visitors feel safe, welcome, valued, and included. The recent events on the [University of Virginia campus](#) involving white supremacists and the racist [social media post](#) here at Iowa State underscore the stark, disturbing reality of racism and bigotry in our country and on our campus. It is incumbent on all of us to reject conduct that promotes hate, fear, and violence. We must fully commit to the [Principles of the Iowa State Community](#): treat others with respect, purpose, and cooperation; value diversity; eliminate discrimination; and engage in honest and respectful expression.

As part of our continuing efforts to improve the campus climate, you will be invited to participate in a comprehensive [campus climate survey](#) later this fall. The goal of the survey is to assess and ultimately strengthen inclusion, equity, and safety at Iowa State. Look for an email from me in early October announcing the survey launch. Also launching this fall is [Green Dot](#), an integrated prevention program emphasizing bystander intervention to prevent sexual misconduct and personal violence.

We're also working with the Board of Regents to end the recent practice of last-minute tuition increases and make tuition rates more predictable and transparent by establishing a [five-year tuition proposal](#). Iowa State's tuition plan, presented Aug. 9, was developed with the overarching goal of maintaining the university's quality educational experience for our students despite significant declines in state funding. The plan also includes a substantial investment in financial aid to protect student access and affordability. A summary of all the [regents institutions' proposals](#) will be provided during the September Board of Regents meeting.

State funding challenges have elevated the importance of private dollars to support Iowa State's priorities and help students pay for their education. To date, the [Forever True, For Iowa State](#) campaign has raised \$747 million, which has been directed by donors to support areas such as scholarships, faculty positions, and programs. Last year alone, nearly \$15 million in scholarships were awarded to our students.

Campus climate, the five-year tuition proposal, and our capital campaign are just some of the initiatives that the Iowa State Community has been hard at work on this summer. We're

also engaged in technology improvements such as [Workday](#), administrative projects such as the [P&S Classification and Compensation Review](#), and infrastructure developments including the Student Innovation Center, the Advanced Teaching and Resource facility, and the recently-opened Bessey Hall addition.

You can hear more about these projects and our key priorities during my [Fall Address](#) scheduled for 6:30 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 14, in the Great Hall of the Memorial Union. I hope you will attend!

Iowa State is an exciting place to be and we're glad you're here! While we continue to work through challenges, I believe Iowa State will emerge stronger than ever thanks to the dedication of people like you. I want to thank the entire Iowa State Community – students, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends – for your efforts to make this university an exceptional institution. I look forward to a productive, successful year! Go Cyclones!

Sincerely,
Benjamin J. Allen

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Interim President