

Remarks by the Acting President Rick Muma at
The University Village Town Hall, September 30, 2020

Thank you Kaye and good afternoon everyone, in-person and remotely. Thank you for being here. I also want to thank our elected officials, for being here as well. Could you please stand and be recognized.

To start, I'd like to provide a brief summary on how we got here.

- In 2012, Dr. John Bardo unveiled the mission for Wichita State University: for WSU to be an essential educational, cultural, and economic driver for Kansas and the greater public good
- The goals were simple:
 - Improve our students' educational experience
 - Help spur competitiveness by focusing on delivery higher education deeply grounded in applied learning and research
 - Create job and career opportunities both in Wichita and throughout Kansas to encourage our graduates to stay in Kansas, and
 - Grow the Kansas economy through innovation, diversification, and increased opportunities
- This plan was driven the by creation of the Innovation Campus, located in the development of the Shocker Neighborhood, and spurring the economic growth of the surrounding 10-county region
- In 2015, the University sponsored and developed the Blueprint for Regional Economic Growth (BREG) with the support,

commitment, and input from local and regional community leaders and partners

- For the past 8 years, and still today, WSU has:
 - worked to expand our research portfolio;
 - grow a more diverse business cluster on the Innovation Campus;
 - foster applied learning opportunities for our students on and off campus; and
 - keep our tuition affordable for our students.
- Additionally, the University has been proud to partner with community organizations on a variety of projects: the 67214 project, purpose-built communities, and the Fairmount Neighborhood project, just to name a few.

Today, Wichita State remains committed to driving prosperity and improving economic outcomes and quality of life for the people and communities we serve. We are an urban public research university, that's what we do by providing educational access for all and help our community solve some of its most pressing issues. We are excited to continue our work with all of our University partners in the community and hopefully new partners beyond Wichita and look forward to the future.

On a personal note, I live in this community known as the Shocker Neighborhood, just south of here. I've lived there for 20 years, and what I've noticed over the last 5-6 years is a sense of renewal, with more young families in the neighborhood, people helping people fix up their houses, people caring for shared green spaces, bike paths and more. I know this is anecdotal information, but I think it's real and I think it's because we are all working together.

So, let's talk about why we're here, and I'll start with taking about the center of this area.....Wichita State.