



HLC Accreditation 2020-2021

Evidence Document

Office of the President

Andy Tompkins

**From the President:
Best Wishes for a Great Year
July 17, 2019**

Additional information:

From the President: Best wishes for a great year

Dear Colleagues,

Anyone who thinks staff and faculty are not busy in the summer has not been on campus to see all that is happening. We have had a productive summer thus far, and I thought it would be a good time to share an update on our campus.

After about three months as interim president, I can tell you what I have already said to many others: WSU is a remarkable place, filled with smart, dedicated folks who are making a difference for our students and community. You have a lot of reasons to be proud of what you and your colleagues have accomplished, and I am honored to be here to support your efforts.

Please note in your calendars that you are invited to two fun events on Wednesday, Aug. 14. The faculty-staff fall semester kickoff will be from 3-4 p.m. in the Beggs Ballroom at the Rhatigan Student Center. That will be immediately followed by a faculty-staff picnic on the first floor. Watch WSU Today for more details on both.

We received exciting news this month that one of our faculty members, Dr. Alexandre Shvartsburg, assistant professor in the Chemistry department, was named a recipient of the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers. This is a major national honor. He is the only faculty member from Kansas receiving the award this year and is one of only three from Kansas who has ever received it.

Also, Wichita State University has been named a 2019 Social Mobility Innovator for recruiting and retaining low-income students while making college affordable, advancing economic opportunity and helping restore the American dream. Wichita State has consistently ranked among the top 3-6 percent of all colleges and universities on CollegeNET's annual Social Mobility Index (SMI). WSU received recognition at the Social Mobility Summit in Portland, Oregon, on July 11, 2019.

As you know, we have a number of building projects across campus. Emily Patterson, executive director of facilities planning, will provide a more comprehensive update at

our meeting on Aug. 14, but the major ones and their expected completion dates are as follows:

- Honors College Addition to Shocker Hall (July)
- YMCA and Student Wellness Center (January)
- The Suites (student housing) (Completed in June)
- Advanced Virtual Engineering and Testing Lab – NIAR Crash Lab (October)
- Partnership Three Building (October)
- Eck Stadium Performance Facility (January)
- Student Athletic Success Center, connected to Koch Arena (July 2020)

The National Center for Aviation Training that we run jointly with WSU Tech is going to be one of the sites for a celebration of the 50th anniversary of the first person on the moon and a presentation on NASA's future plans for space travel. The NASA administrator will be at NCAT on Monday, July 22 to highlight future NASA initiatives in both aviation and space. The event will begin at 9 a.m. and conclude by 12:30 p.m. and be held in the auditorium.

The presidential search has launched and you can go to the website -- wsu.news/candidates -- to see the search document and a video to introduce potential candidates to the university and community. The committee will begin reviewing candidates later this summer, and the Regents still plan to make a decision and introduce a new president before Thanksgiving.

I hope your summer is a good one and that you are able to take some time away to recharge before we begin a new academic year.

Continued best wishes to each of you!

Dr. Andy Tompkins,
Interim President, Wichita State University