

## Forward Together: President's January 2021 Message



### 2021 brings so much for Shockers to celebrate

Welcome to 2021, Shocker Nation! The new year brings so much promise and hope, and I'm eager to see all the opportunity and innovation that comes from Wichita State University.

One bright spot is our broadening digital transformation footprint. The [addition of four new curriculum options](#) — Bachelor of Arts in Applied Linguistics, Master of Science in Data Science, Master of Science in Business Analytics, and Master of Science in Mathematical Foundations of Data Analysis — is timely as Wichita



Dr. Richard Muma, interim president

State positions itself to become the primary educator and researcher in digital transformation, helping to diversify our state's economy.

Additionally, the [School of Computing](#) has been established in the College of Engineering. The new school is not only expected to be a powerhouse in computing and data sciences, but its students will support the university's planned [National Institute of Digital Transformation](#).

As we enter a new year, I am proud to announce Kaye Monk-Morgan will transition to a permanent role as the vice president for Strategic Engagement and Planning. Kaye will be responsible for university-wide strategic planning, assessment and accreditation, TRIO/GEAR-UP, community-based centers, engaging with the community around the university's priorities, and advising the president and executive vice president/provost on matters related to Wichita State's strategic objectives.

And finally, we can celebrate that two vaccines against COVID-19 have officially started to be administered to healthcare workers around the country, and they will eventually be available to the general public. While it will still be several months before things return to normal, and we'll need to continue wearing masks and keeping a safe distance from each other, there's a light at the end of this very long tunnel.

So happy new year, Wichita State. There's no doubt in my mind that 2021 will bring the best that Shocker Nation has to offer.

Dr. Rick Muma,

Interim President, Wichita State University