



President's Message: High-impact initiatives in 2018

Posted: Wednesday, November 29, 2017 Posted: 1:37:01 PM CT



The beautiful and imposing antique bookcase built for the first president of Fairmount College sits by the top of the stairs, near my office in Morrison Hall. It's a daily reminder that we stand on the shoulders of President Nathan Morrison and all those, including loyal and active alumni, who have help shape the university we love.

I'm fortunate to have met the presidents who preceded me, going back to 1949 – Corbin, Lindquist, Ahlberg, Armstrong, Hughes and Beggs. I sit at President Emory Lindquist's desk, to take inspiration from his leadership in broadening the local impact of the university while bringing it into the state system.

In his 1963 convocation address, Lindquist said: "Our university has the rich sense of belonging to the past and the exciting feeling that the future is heavy with the promise of better things."

That's the feeling I have as we enter 2018. You've already heard a lot about Innovation Campus and the "Shock the World" capital campaign, so, briefly, here are five other high-impact initiatives to watch in the new year:

- Our formal affiliation with Wichita Area Technical College will begin July 1 under its new name, WSU Campus of Applied Sciences and Technology. WSU faculty and staff have been working with President Sheree Utash and her team on joint programs and facilities to serve students and the workforce needs of Kansas industries.
- We're strongly focused on student recruitment and retention. Part of that is improving the quality of student life through means such as improving housing options and recreation and wellness facilities. We're also emphasizing high-potential growth segments, such as first-generation students and those from the I-35 corridor in Texas, Oklahoma and Missouri. Based on application trends, we expect the fall 2018 freshman class to be our largest ever, for the third year in a row.
- The university has been introducing academic programs and approaches to fit the needs of students and industries. Examples include expanded online degrees and badges, plus new degrees in education (Teacher Apprentice Program), engineering (engineering technology with specialized tracks in civil engineering, cybersecurity, management and mechatronics); media arts (with specialized tracks in animation, audio production, filmmaking and game design); plus, MA in Innovation Design. Upcoming: global supply chain management and homeland security. Our top priority for new state funding is a program in material and chemicals engineering.
- Funded research and related applied learning opportunities are expanding. Our externally funded research hit an all-time high of \$90 million in 2017. One intriguing new contract is with the U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center to support a two-year, \$1.9 million effort focused on fostering new research and development collaborations to advance military technology and move it more quickly into the hands of Army users.
- As part of our effort to attract, retain and develop the best students, faculty and staff, we created a new office of Diversity and Community Engagement, led by Vice President Marchè Fleming-Randle. I also agreed to become chair of the Urban League, to help with

workforce development and build bridges to residents of neighborhoods near the university.

What other high-impact initiatives do you think we should be working on? Please write to me, president@wichita.edu.

Diversity Update: Encouraging equity and inclusiveness

Posted: Wednesday, November 29, 2017 Posted: 1:53:58 PM CT

Greetings Shocker Nation!

The fall semester has been full of exciting activities, and I am grateful for all of the hard work of the students, staff, faculty and community partners that have worked together to integrate the new division on campus.

As faculty and staff, we must continue to explore the ever-changing demographics and identify ways to proactively engage the community. Wichita State University is filled with promise and believes that significant accomplishments will be achieved as we expand strategic partnerships.

The President's Diversity Council is on the move and will be in full force in 2018. Diversity is important to faculty, staff, students and community

I would like to congratulate the Public Policy and Management staff on receiving a three-year extension to provide professional development for both the city clerks and municipal finance officers and Kansas Museum Associations. I would like to thank Misty Bruckner, Lisa Dodson, Paula Downs, Morgan Barnes and Kayla Vix for providing outstanding public service to support the needs of the community. Their work embodies the spirit and history of Wichita State to cultivate, sustain and advance community partnerships for the greater good.

As we promote the greater good, we cultivate an environment that encourages equity and an inclusive campus.

Thank you for helping us begin our journey as a new division, and we look forward to sharing many more highlights in the new year!

*"I have found that among its other benefits, giving liberates the soul of the giver."
-Maya Angelou*

Happy Holidays.



— Dr. Marchè Fleming-Randle
Vice President for Diversity and Community Engagement

Grant of the Month: U.S. Army award will provide applied learning opportunities

Posted: Wednesday, November 29, 2017 Posted: 1:54:44 PM CT



Wichita State University has signed a Partnership Intermediary Agreement (PIA) with the U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Research, Development and Engineering Center (AMRDEC) to support a two-year, \$1.9 million effort focused on fostering new research and development collaborations to advance military technology and move it more quickly into the hands of Army users.

This PIA initiative will be managed through a new FirePoint Innovations Center that will be located on Wichita State's Innovation Campus.

FirePoint will work closely with AMRDEC scientists and engineers to expand engagement and collaboration in future vertical lift technologies with industry, universities and other Department of Defense (DoD) researchers.

» Read full story below:

U.S. Army award will provide applied learning opportunities for students

Tuesday, October 31, 2017

- **WSU has signed a partnership with the U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Research, Development and Engineering Center.**
 - **The initiative will be managed through a new FirePoint Innovations Center located on WSU's Innovation Campus.**
 - [Learn more about FirePoint.](#)
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FirePoint will work closely with AMRDEC scientists and engineers to expand engagement and collaboration in future vertical lift technologies with industry, universities and other Department of Defense (DoD) researchers.

These new collaborations will assist AMRDEC to address technology gaps and enhance its ability to develop and deliver new capabilities that will continue to provide a competitive advantage to the nation's warfighters.

“The collaboration will ... provide outstanding applied learning opportunities for our students.”

–John Tomblin

FirePoint will be led by executive director Peter Perna and technical director Paul Jonas. Perna has more than 30 years of experience in technology transfer and commercialization. Jonas also serves as director of technology development and special programs for WSU's National Institute for Aviation Research. The center will initially hire two student assistants. Additional existing Wichita State personnel will assist with administrative duties.

FirePoint will leverage the experience and competencies of Wichita State and the Wichita community, especially the National Institute for Aviation Research, College of Engineering and local aviation industry.

“AMRDEC’s mission is vital to the strength of the nation’s defense, and we’re honored to have this opportunity to work closely with them,” said John Tomblin, WSU vice president for research and technology transfer. “The collaboration will expand WSU’s role in DoD research and development activities and will provide outstanding applied learning opportunities for our students – synchronizing with the university’s vision, mission and goals.”

The U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Research, Development and Engineering Center provides increased responsiveness to the nation's warfighters through aviation and missile capabilities and life cycle engineering solutions.

“Partnerships between our nation’s universities and the Department of Defense strengthen our national security, and direct access to Wichita State University enhances the department’s ability to rapidly respond to mission requirements,” said Senator Jerry Moran, chairman of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies. “The Army's decision to partner with Wichita State University to improve our nation’s aviation and aerospace defenses exemplifies the quality of the university's research and development capabilities. This partnership creates new opportunities for Kansans and the Wichita community.”

To learn more about FirePoint Innovations, visit gofirepoint.org.

What I'm Reading: 'Redesigning higher education with the student at the center'

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A common pitfall in higher education when faced with the need to change is falling back on tried and true methods of overcoming obstacles.

But the pressures facing higher education demand a different way of thinking – incremental change in the short term alongside revolutionary change in the longer term.

This ability to continually tweak current offerings while encouraging radically different approaches to educating students in the future is the idea behind Portland State University's reTHINK PSU. The campuswide effort engages faculty, staff and students in identifying problems and designing solutions.

[» Read the full article.](#)

Metric of the Month: Undergraduate research initiatives

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The highlighted metric of the month is undergraduate research awards. Undergraduates from all disciplines are encouraged to participate in research and creative projects in collaboration with WSU faculty. To foster undergraduate research, the Dorothy and Bill Cohen Honors College awards undergraduate student research grants. A higher number of awards reflect growing undergraduate interest in seeking research and creative opportunities and collaborating with faculty on those activities.

Click on the image below for more information.

UNDERGRAD RESEARCH AWARDS - Amount

Value of awards

