

Dear Campus Community,

Thank you for the warm welcome to campus this past week. I am grateful to those who have greeted me so positively in the halls, elevators, parking lots, and various public spaces on campus. It is an absolute joy to meet you and hear your “Parkside stories.”

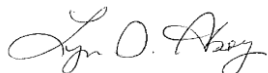
While Winterim course offerings are being held online, campus is still a bit on the quiet side, yet each day I see more and more signs of activity in preparation for the start of the Spring Term on January 29th. I’m also engaging the Cabinet, the Extended Cabinet, and our shared governance leaders in conversations about the critical next steps we must take to secure our financial future.

As outlined in Interim Chancellor Menke’s communication to the campus on [December 8th](#), a number of steps have been taken to improve UW-Parkside’s financial stability. As the campus moves forward with necessary reductions and prioritization of resources this spring, I am committed to continued transparency and communication. A draft timeline and process for decision-making are now available on the University’s [Strategic Budget Planning](#) website. I encourage you to visit the Strategic Budget Planning website to review these materials, ask questions, and provide feedback.

A University Budget Town Hall will also be held on Thursday, February 1, 2024, at 2:00 pm, to share additional information and steps that are being taken to support our financial planning. I understand the anticipation of reducing our workforce weighs heavily on our hearts and minds. These are stressful times for our campus community. As a reminder, the Employee Assistance Program, Kepro, is available to support employees, including those who may need financial advice. They can be reached at 833-539-7285 or via their website: Kepro (passcode: SOWI).

In my visits with faculty, staff, students and the community since I arrived, I have often heard that UW-Parkside is the “gem” of the Universities of Wisconsin. I couldn’t agree more. I am so very proud of our faculty, staff and students and the work we do to transform students’ lives. I am confident that we will emerge from this experience with greater focus on our future, commitment to the success of all students, and partnership with the communities we serve.

Sincerely,



Dr. Lynn Akey
Chancellor