

March 25, 2024

Dear UW-Parkside Community,

I trust this message finds you well as we reconnect following spring break and embark upon the final stretch of the spring semester. My first three months as chancellor have been a whirlwind of activity. I've had the pleasure of immersing myself in our campus community during my Learning Tour, and I am truly impressed by the dedication of our faculty and staff evident in every meeting. It's abundantly clear that UW-Parkside fosters a unique and supportive learning community filled with stories of student triumph thanks to your collective efforts.

As you know, we have taken steps to address our current budgetary challenges. It has been a difficult process, but we've successfully implemented reductions to address our current structural deficit while beginning to chart a course toward sustained financial stability. Through our combined efforts, we've managed to identify significant savings in operating expenses, totaling \$5.8 million.

These reductions have necessitated tough decisions, including furloughs, non-salary reductions, not filling vacant positions, early retirements, and layoffs. I acknowledge the deeply personal impacts of these measures and wish to extend my heartfelt gratitude to each and every one of you for your dedication and professionalism throughout this process.

At the same time, we have begun to look ahead. In the short term, three strategic action teams – focused on workplace environment, enrollment, and branding/messaging – have begun their work. Comprised of representation from across the university, each team is working to identify immediate, high-impact initiatives this semester that can help move our university forward. I invite you to act by submitting a proposal for the [Ranger Reach-Out Challenge](#). Your ideas can help ensure our university is no longer the hidden gem of the Universities of Wisconsin.

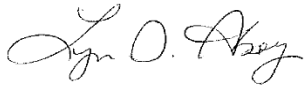
In addition, we will begin wide-ranging conversations about the long-term direction of UW-Parkside. We are an inclusive and innovative university delivering high-value opportunities. There are pathways that strategically align with our society's emerging needs, empowering students to thrive and contribute to their communities across the region and beyond. I look forward to sharing more about these next conversations at our University Town Hall scheduled on April 8<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 pm.

With these actions, I am filled with optimism for the future of UW-Parkside. I believe we can build upon the enrollment growth last fall by expanding our program offerings to meet the evolving needs of our community. Among these new endeavors are the establishment of a Physician Assistant Master's program and a Center for Artificial Intelligence and Data Analytics. While these initiatives are still in their beginning stages, they are poised to play pivotal roles in propelling UW-Parkside into the future.

Additionally, we are committed to maintaining a strong array of programs, investing in cutting-edge learning labs such as the Health Sciences Lab in Tallent Hall, and exploring the development of outdoor athletics facilities in partnership with our surrounding communities. The relationship with Gateway Technical College is flourishing,

providing more students with accessible pathways to attain their four-year degrees. Our dual enrollment program, Parkside Access to College Credits, will continue to furnish valuable opportunities for high school students. In the face of recent adversity, we have remained a resilient community. I extend my deepest gratitude for your continued support and dedication to UW-Parkside. I am confident that by working together and focusing on our future, the Ranger community will emerge from these challenges stronger than before.

Warm regards,



Lynn Akey  
Chancellor