

October 24, 2017

Dear Iowa State Community:

It is an incredible honor and privilege to be named the 16th president of Iowa State University. I am humbled by this opportunity to work with all of you to build upon Iowa State's rich legacy as a world-class land-grant university, a member of the prestigious Association of American Universities (AAU), and most importantly, a student-centered community.

I am forever true to Iowa State; for most of my career I have had the pleasure of working for this university, including the last eleven years as dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. I have been fortunate during that time to contribute to many Iowa State successes while helping overcome many challenges, and through it all, I have seen this university grow and thrive as a result of a steadfast commitment to educate, innovate, and improve quality of life across Iowa and the world.

We have an outstanding team of faculty and staff who are dedicated to our distinct land-grant mission. Our faculty work tirelessly to ensure the excellence and value of their teaching, research, and extension programs, and our staff are essential in supporting the success and well-being of our students and the effective operation of the university. As one of the most student-centered, public research universities in the country, Iowa State is well-positioned to prepare students as productive global citizens while addressing grand research challenges – improving and sustaining our environment and water quality, feeding a hungry world, engineering the future of advanced materials and manufacturing and energy alternatives, and advancing the arts and humanities which encourage us to think creatively, find meaning and gain a deeper understanding of our diverse society.

Now as we consider Iowa State's future, I believe we have the potential to become the best land grant university in the nation. I am eager to begin engaging with the campus community on how we do just that. As I mentioned yesterday, I look forward to getting better acquainted with every corner of this great university.

While my official start date is Nov. 20, I will begin working immediately with Interim President Benjamin Allen to navigate a smooth transition. I want to thank Dr. Allen for his steady, thoughtful leadership during this interim period.

I have a deep love and loyalty for this university and the community of inspirational students, faculty, staff, alumni, friends, and partners who have brought us to this point. As president, I am honored to have the opportunity to work with, learn from, and most importantly, listen to all of you as we take Iowa State to the next level of excellence.

With warm regards,

Wendy Wintersteen
President-Select