

**From:** [President Wendy Wintersteen \[PRES\]](#)  
**Subject:** Be part of the ISU story and write the book you want to read  
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**IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY**  
OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

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August 26, 2019

Dear Students, Colleagues, and Friends,

Welcome to Iowa State University for the start of a new academic year!

As we begin a new year of learning, innovating, and creating, I am inspired by a quote from author Toni Morrison. The first African American woman to win a Nobel Prize recently passed away, but she continues to enlighten us with a wealth of thought-provoking words, including...

*"If there's a book that you want to read, but it hasn't been written yet, then you must write it."*

This is a fitting way to think about the Iowa State experience and our culture of [innovation and entrepreneurship](#). We look forward to the opening of the [Student Innovation Center](#) in spring 2020, where dreamers and creators from all majors and programs can come together to "write the books they want to read" – they can test novel theories, build prototypes, pitch ideas, invent solutions, and spin off exciting new businesses.

As members of the Iowa State community, we share in the joy of reading each other's books and being a part of each other's stories. We are proud to serve more Iowa students than any other college or university, and we are equally excited to welcome thousands more students from all 50 states and more than 120 countries. Our world-renowned faculty and talented staff also bring diverse perspectives and ideas. Together we are writing a future for our campus and community filled with innovation and progress – click the link for a [snapshot of Iowa State's excellence](#). We encourage you to get involved and be part of the ISU story!

Our stories are dynamic – a new chapter is added when new knowledge is acquired. We are fortunate to have a supportive community with which we can learn and grow. Our [Principles of Community](#) instill in us a commitment to treat others with respect, purpose, and cooperation; value diversity; reject discrimination and bias; and engage in honest and respectful expression. Iowa State strives to be the most welcoming and inclusive university for everyone. Let each of us in our university community always be learning from each other, every day.

We are so glad you are here. Together let's write another excellent chapter this year for Iowa State University!

Wendy Wintersteen  
President