

May 22, 2020

Dear Iowa State Community,

Yesterday I met virtually with more than 200 administrative leaders from around campus to discuss planning for increasing operations this summer. I'll have more to say about this in a message on Tuesday, after the Memorial Day weekend.

I started our meeting by talking briefly about inspiration. I'd like to share with you some of the things that have inspired me recently.

First, as you know, our Office of Student Financial Aid has been working very hard to fulfill requests from our students who've applied for funds from the federal CARES Act to address financial difficulties caused by the pandemic. Roberta Johnson, our director of student financial aid, told me about a note that came to her office from a student who had successfully applied for and received CARES funding. The student explained that they had found a job for the summer and no longer needed the money. They wanted to return the funds so that other students with greater need could benefit. Chad Olson, our assistant director of student financial aid, responded to the student to oblige their request and thank them for being an outstanding, selfless member of the Iowa State community. It's just one of so many wonderful stories that demonstrate the kind of students we have.

Second, each day when I walk into Beardshear I pass near the Jack Trice sculpture that was returned to central campus last fall. I find myself reflecting on the letter he wrote expressing his commitment to do his very best for his team. I see that kind of inspiring commitment from so many of our campus leaders right now as we respond to the crisis we're in, and the tremendous efforts we all are undertaking to prepare for the rest of the summer and the start of fall semester.

Third, I've been amazed at the creativity and craft I see in face coverings that friends, alumni, students and colleagues have sent to me in my office. Many are emblems of the kind of creativity — and actions — needed to help us move forward. Thank you for your caring and concern. I promise to put them to good use — as all our leaders on campus work together to model the behavior and practices that support our campus community's health. With creativity and practice, we will safely, and eventually, get to the other side of the pandemic.

Fourth, I get to hear Tin-Shi Tam [play the carillon](#) so beautifully at mid-day. Her constancy and her musical gifts always inspire me.

If you've had something or someone inspire you lately, let me know.

Enjoy the Memorial Day weekend, and please take care.

Wendy Wintersteen
President

P.S., The Iowa State University Cyclone Football Varsity Marching Band remains loyal and forever true to ISU during the COVID-19 crisis. [Take a listen](#) to their virtual performance of our beloved fight song.