

300 East College Avenue Eureka, Illinois 61530-1500 309.467.6322 Office 309.467.6325 Fax

## Dear Eureka College Community -

At our July 8, 2021 meeting, the Board of Trustees voted to extend Jamel Wright's employment as President of Eureka College for another four years. In addition, the Board unanimously expressed their full support of President Wright and her leadership.

These past few years have been extremely challenging for virtually every higher education institution, including Eureka College. We believe President Wright is ideally suited to not only meet today's challenges, but lead us into the future. She has our complete support.

During her tenure, President Wright has led initiatives to improve the College's financial position, increase the College's appeal to both traditional and non-traditional students and ensure Eureka continues its 166-year history as a proud and successful liberal arts college. Eureka, as a direct result of President Wright's leadership, has taken steps to strengthen its financial position and is well situated to address both opportunities and challenges in the coming years.

At the same time, we've heard from several alumni who have reached out to express concerns about the ongoing operations and future direction of the College. We very much value and appreciate our strong and tight-knit alumni community and are always open to receiving everyone's constructive feedback, listening to questions and hearing different perspectives. While we know Eureka is on the right track thanks to the work of President Wright and her incredibly talented team, we can always do more to live up to our mission of cultivating excellence in learning, service and leadership through mutual development of intellect and character.

Going forward, President Wright and her team will continue their work to ensure the long-term viability of Eureka by identifying underperforming areas within the College, working to enact improvements and creating a strategic plan for Eureka's future. The Board and Administration agree that increased enrollment and fundraising are critical to the College's continued vitality. We are united in pursuing those goals. Some of these initiatives and programs may require changes to how the College has operated in the past. While change can sometimes be uncomfortable and some new ways of operating may take time for the broader College community to understand, these are necessary adjustments to help secure the future of Eureka College.

We look forward to the journey into what lies ahead, and welcome you and others joining us as we create our destiny.

Sincerely,

The Eureka College Board of Trustees

Ms. Marylean Abney Mr. Rodney Gould '87

Ms. Mickeisha Armstrong '93 Mr. K. Edward Holderle, III

Mr. William Ball Ms. Anna Palmer '07

Ms. Kristen Beck '96 Mr. Ernest Potter '65

Mr. Clint Drury '01 Mr. Duane Schroeder

Mr. Tim Erickson Ms. Carolyn Shepherd, Hon 2015

Mr. Allen Fore '87 Rev. Beau Underwood '05

Ms. Lila Gammon Mr. Harry Williams '79