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Message from President Stephen H. Kolison, Jr., Sept. 15, 2022

President's Office <President.Office@fredonia.edu>

Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 9:41 PM

To: Faculty/Staff group <facultystaff@fredonia.edu>, All Registered students <students@fredonia.edu>



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

September 15, 2022

Dear Students,

Happy Thursday evening! I hope you have settled nicely into your classes for the Fall 2022 semester. It has been such a pleasure attending various student activities during the first few weeks and seeing many of you experiencing SUNY Fredonia. Events like Activities Night show the richness of extracurricular programming Fredonia offers.

Below are a few updates that I would like to share with you.

COVID-19 Cases Declining

A couple of weeks ago, I told you about an uptick in COVID-19 cases on campus, and I am pleased to report that those numbers have declined this past week. Thank you for paying attention to your health and getting tested early. Early testing has the most significant impact on slowing the spread of COVID-19 variants. Please note that SUNY no longer requires surveillance testing and is no longer collecting data from campuses. Hence, the dashboard on our website is no longer active. Nevertheless, COVID-19 has not been eliminated. It is still a concern. I urge you to continue to protect yourself and those around you.

Office Relocations

We have made some office relocations recently and there are others underway. These changes were or are being made to improve services to you, provide adequate space for some offices, and enhance synergy and efficiency.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion: The Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) has moved to a new location. The new office location is 2121 Fenton Hall - on the second floor. This move will provide the DEI staff, led by Chief Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer, Dr. Vicki T. Sapp, more space to carry out the important work of DEI.

Campus Life: As you might have read in the August 23 email from Student Affairs, this summer, there were many moves and changes within the Williams Center Student Union. With the goal of increasing opportunities for students to connect, engage, and find support, the Student Association has moved upstairs to a larger and more visible space. Student Conduct and the Intercultural Center/Multicultural Support Services have moved into the newly-named Student Engagement and Inclusion suite on the first floor to join with Campus Life. [Let's Talk](#) and the FREDwell Lounge are now located upstairs in S212 and while the space is still awaiting new furniture, the drop-in hours with a counselor are available every Wednesday afternoon.

See [here](#) for more information on the specific locations and contact information for each of the aforementioned offices and functions.

Information and Technology Services: By the end of the fall 2022 semester, all Information Technology Services staff and functions will be physically consolidated to Thompson Hall 2nd floor south. This will provide opportunities for higher quality IT support services, maximize synergies, and reduce operational costs. This consolidation will include the ResNet Office currently located in McGinnies Hall and ITS departments located in Maytum Hall. This change will also provide a centralized point of support to students and offer extended hours to include nights and weekends.

Remembrance Garden Along Ring Road

Recently, you may have noticed some work along Ring Road between the two-tiered lot and Facilities Services. We are establishing a Remembrance Garden to honor and remember students who pass away during their time with us. Thanks to a Troop 267 Eagle Scout Project in collaboration with Facilities Services, the Remembrance and Reflection Garden has taken shape just north of Lot 7 (two-tiered lot on Ring Road). Phase one of the project is complete and all are welcome to enjoy this peaceful and beautiful path and plantings of native

flowers. We want to thank everyone who contributed to this project thus far. See photos below.



Improvements in Williams Center Union

As I wrote to you this summer on July 15, and as Student Affairs shared in an update on August 23, several enhancements to the Williams Center Union have been completed. The Blue Devil Den game room, Blue Lounge, Help Hub, and Freddy's Locker (food and essentials pantry) are new additions to the Williams Center Student Union and you will continue to see additions and improvements to these spaces throughout the semester. I hope that these spaces are facilitating your connections to others and enhancing your Fredonia experience. I was pleased to be at the ribbon-cutting for the Blue Devil Den and engage with students after it opened (photos below).



I want to note that student tuition dollars were not used to improve these spaces. Thanks to the Student Association for the hard work and funding that have made the new Blue Devil Den (student game room) a reality! SUNY Fredonia also received funds from SUNY through the Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds (HEERF), which were specifically designated for supporting student mental health and well-being. These funds were used to develop the Blue Lounge and to purchase the blue Adirondack chairs you have seen around campus.

I want to offer my gratitude and recognition of all the areas that came together to make the improvements happen.

The Cranston Marche Dining Experience

Among the things I enjoy doing around campus when time permits is visiting the Cranston Marche for a meal. When I am there, I enjoy observing the interactions among students while they are enjoying their meals. Early this fall, while I was eating lunch, a group of Resident Assistants invited me to join them at their table. It was a pleasure! It made my day!



Strong Rankings for SUNY Fredonia

I was delighted to read that [SUNY Fredonia continues to be ranked highly by several prestigious publications](#) that rate colleges and universities. Fredonia's consistency in these rankings is a testament to the dedication of our faculty and staff to focus on student success and to our students for working hard to fulfill their goals.

I hope you are taking some time to enjoy our beautiful campus. For first-time students or students new to Fredonia, you are in for a treat when the leaves change color.

Students, it is good to connect with you again. I will continue to do so from time to time throughout the fall. I wish you all the best for an enjoyable and successful semester.

Very truly yours,

Dr. K

Stephen H. Kolison, Jr., Ph.D.

President and Professor

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