Dear Friends,

It’s a busy, but exciting time of year! We are hearing about plans students are making for after graduation—I’ve heard of some planning for everything from graduate school to the Peace Corps!

We have faculty members with publications coming out. Communication students, with the help of faculty, have created a local TED talk. A number of our faculty members are presenting and I’ve heard that Dr. Jodi Detrick will be the keynote speaker at Commencement!

Jim Jessup recently told me how much the online Criminal Justice students are appreciating their Bible/Theology courses and that this is why they choose NU. How cool is that!

**Campus Plan**
I am excited about the revision process for our Campus Master Plan and for the fact that we need to do this because of our desire to move ahead with campus improvements. As described recently at the staff meeting and faculty council, finalizing and presenting this plan will be an involved process. The next step is review and possible revision by the Campus Planning Commission. After that, employees will be given the opportunity to provide input and feedback, before it goes to the board in May. Then the architects have a ton of detailed work to do before submitting the plan to the city of Kirkland in the fall. It’s important to remember that the Master Plan is primarily about planning the footprint and basic elements of future buildings for the next decade and beyond. Before construction will begin, there will be additional processes for designing the specific buildings.

**Campus Conversations**
Because the issue of sexual identity and the Christian life is on many minds these days, we have planned a couple on-campus conversations. On March 24, we will offer a panel event for students to engage with faculty from a variety of disciplines to discuss how faith interacts with sexual identity. In addition, several local pastors have asked if we would host an event to talk about these topics. Both of these dialogues will be NU community events, intended to provide a safe space for students and pastors connected to NU to ask questions and dialogue. We are not advertising these events outside our NU circles and these events shouldn’t be interpreted as NU trying to engage in any type of culture war. But it is important for our people to have a thoughtful opportunity to engage with these issues from our perspective.

**SSI Results**
Late last fall we administered the Student Satisfaction Inventory (SSI) survey to our traditional undergraduate population. We have conducted the SSI for the
past decade and it provides helpful data for us in identifying areas of strength along with potential improvements. Across the board, the student scores are slightly lower than in years past. We will continue to review and analyze the findings and this will be an important pattern to watch for in the future. If you are interested in the full findings, the SSI comprehensive report which details the departmental, demographic, and category results is posted on the Strategic Data Dashboard: [http://eagle.northwestu.edu/departments/strategic-data/student-satisfaction-inventory-ssi/](http://eagle.northwestu.edu/departments/strategic-data/student-satisfaction-inventory-ssi/).

**The Northwest Way**

PLEASE keep your eyes open for possible nominations! At each community chapel, we take a few minutes to recognize employees for doing something extraordinary, reflecting the Northwest Way. Each day, there are actions that appear to be small, but mean so much to members of the NU community. It is precisely these contributions that make this such a special place to work at. If you see someone taking action that deserves recognition, please take a few minutes to complete the online form at [http://eagle.northwestu.edu/apps/the-northwest-way/](http://eagle.northwestu.edu/apps/the-northwest-way/).

**Spring Events**

I have several favorite parts of spring including blooming trees and longer days. But even more so, I love to see the fruit of our labor as students participate in concerts, sporting events, drama productions, speaking in chapel, and more. A quick glance at the calendar shows the numerous ways our students are expressing their talents. Your involvement in these activities means so much, so I would encourage you to find one way during the next few months to support NU students.

As always—please let me know if you have any questions. And blessings on our work and our school as we partner together to prepare our students to make a difference in this world for God’s kingdom!