

April 13, 2009

Greetings:

I am pleased to provide news about all that your university community has accomplished during this academic year and about exciting plans to come. We all understand that this year has brought financial difficulties and uncertainty to many families. In the midst of all our economic struggles, the university has reached out to help many of our students and alums. We are very proud of how we have responded to the challenges of today's reality and we remain steadfast in our efforts to provide leadership across the state and the nation on how to develop strategies for economic recovery.

Our *Recovery Starts Here* Program has created national wide acclaim for your university. We will have awarded 400 recovery grants by the time the fall 2009 semester begins. The recipients of those recovery grants are our own students, alums and many others who have been displaced as a result of the economic downturn across the country. In addition extended short and long term payment plans to many of our students that lost their tuition reimbursement benefits. During these very difficult times we pledge to work with all students to help them to continue their education. We know that education is their assurance of a better future.

We are also working with employers in Michigan to identify the skills they are seeking as they hire new employees for the new economy. We are aggressively pursuing additional certificates to transition professionals to the defense industry, media and film industry, battery technology, biomedical engineering and bioinformatics, among others. We have positioned your university with a forward vision for the future.

In the past six months, Governor Granholm, U.S. Senator Levin, several Congressional representatives, the County Executives L.Brooks Patterson, Robert Ficano, Mayor Cockrel and many industry executives have visited campus recently to learn of the work students and faculty are doing in alternative energy, sustainability projects, and in finding new uses for new materials. They also have recognized the university as a leader in the recovery of our state. Lawrence Tech continues to gain momentum to become a preeminent private university in the region.

We seek to continue to build an environment on campus that broadens your professional and personal goals to lead and contribute to society as a learned citizen. Several new initiatives were launched this past year and I want to update you on next year's tuition and fees:

- ***The Recovery Starts Here:*** Lawrence Tech has committed over \$3 million dollars to the Recovery Starts Here Program. These funds have secured the education of those affected by the economic downturn of our economy. We have continued to work with the Michigan Works Agency across the state to help our students secure the No Worker Left Behind Benefits as well as the Trade Act Assistance Benefits. Dr. Lewis Walker, your University President has championed your cause throughout the State of Michigan to secure the Michigan Tuition Grant in the state budget, to educate key legislature on the role and the society benefits of a private technological education and its graduates.

- ***Naming of the A. Leon Linton Mechanical Engineering Department:*** A Memphis, Tenn.-based alumnus and entrepreneur donated \$2.5 million to LTU to name and endow the Department of Mechanical Engineering. Mr. Linton, who graduated from Lawrence Tech in 1968, is the founder and CEO of Southern Systems Inc. (SSI) of Memphis, which designs, builds and installs custom conveyor systems for manufacturing and distribution facilities. Mr. Linton said he is confident Lawrence Tech will continue to thrive by maintaining its ‘theory and practice’ approach to education, which he finds as valuable in today’s manufacturing environment as it was when he graduated. This endowment will help the Mechanical Engineering Department to fund laboratory equipment, facilities and other needs to continuously improve the educational experience of our students.
- ***Leadership Curriculum Phase II:*** The Leadership Curriculum for all undergraduate students at Lawrence Tech continues to be phased in. The curriculum started with freshmen this past fall and will continue to be phased in the next three years. Ultimately, all Lawrence Tech students will be exposed to leadership concepts and will practice these concepts. Students will experience the rewards that leadership brings to their lives and to others.
- ***New program in Architectural Engineering:*** A new five year master program in Architectural Engineering will start in the Fall 2009. This program, developed in collaboration between the College of Engineering and the College of Architecture is very unique and will develop professional engineers that understand the role of design and the design process. This is a very unique program with only a couple of programs offered in the nation.
- ***The Quest Program:*** The new College of Arts and Sciences co-curricular experiential learning program that involves students in a unique learning experience to explore their passions and future careers under the guidance of faculty of outside mentors. Students choose their projects in the areas of Arts, Leadership or Research. More than 40 students are involved in the 27 Quest projects this year.
- ***New and Innovative certificate degree offerings:*** New programs Lawrence Tech reflect agility and a flexible, interdisciplinary approach to better prepare students for new economic opportunities.
 - ***Certificate in Digital Film Making***
 - ***Certificate in Interior Set Design***
 - ***Certificate in Production Technique***
 - ***Certificate in Site and Sound Engineering***
 - ***Certificate in Visual Effects and Animation***
 - ***Certificate in Bioinformatics***
 - ***Certificate in Biomedical Engineering***
 - ***Certificate in Battery Technology***
 - ***Certificate in Defense Engineering***
 - ***Certificate in Bioelectronics Engineering***
 - ***Certificate in Biomechanics Engineering***
 - ***Certificate in Biochemical Engineering***
 - ***Certificate in Film Studies***

- ***New and Improved campus activities:*** Members of SPAM, Students Programming Activities Monthly, returned from their annual national conference and developed another year with great activities. Students participated in a welcome back concert with nationally recognized recording artists. Club sports in volleyball and cricket were added to augment the successful hockey and soccer programs. Lawrence Tech hockey games have made Friday and Saturday nights very special. Our revived mascot, Blue, leads fans in cheering, and adds spirit to campus events. Other new programming aims to increase student awareness of diversity and social responsibility.
- ***Tuition and Fee Increase.*** Lawrence Tech's Board of Trustees has approved changes in the structure of the tuition and fees and has agreed to hold increases to a minimum. For summer and fall 2009, tuition and fees will increase an average of 4.3 percent, with blended rates depending on the course level and program. We have increased our financial aid budget by 14% for the academic year 09/10. We have increased our Provost Grant by 30% last year and we plan to increase it by 50% this year. We are awarding more graduate scholarships and grants to provide funds to those students who lost their tuition reimbursements. We have testified to the Michigan House of Representatives on behalf of our students to keep the Michigan Tuition Grant stable for the upcoming year as well. Our goal is to continue to provide a private technological education that has value. Nonetheless, the cost of attending Lawrence Tech is expected to remain among the lowest of private colleges and universities. We continue to increase the size and number of scholarships for students and both the Financial Aid and Business Services Offices look forward to working with you to help you access all possible forms of aid available.

All of our plans seek to enhance your future. We continue to strive to develop your University as one of the premier private universities in the country. We want to enhance and improve your opportunities for success by providing additional learning opportunities and greater access to new technologies. We are committed to achieving the mission of *Leadership through Theory and Practice* and above all, strengthening *your* competitive edge.

Best wishes for continued success. I look forward to seeing you this fall!

Sincerely,

Maria J. Vaz, PhD
Provost