

CONCORDIA COLLEGE

May 2017

Greetings to you, friends and partners in mission, from Concordia College.

In the context of the recent completion of a busy and fruitful 2016-2017 academic year, I take this opportunity to share with you results of work across campus regarding three key initiatives central to *Whole Self, Whole Life, Whole World: The Plan for Concordia College, 2012 -2017*.

The Concordia Career Initiative is a strong collaboration among the Career Center, Academic Affairs, and Alumni/ae Affairs. It is a four-year sequence of vocational reflection and discovery: a program that guides every Concordia learner to explore, plan for, test, and then secure a place in the job market or in graduate school. The Career Initiative provides engagement with students that includes classroom, workshop, mock interviews, resume building, Handshake App (connects students seeking internships and jobs with those offering them), and Career Peers. The Concordia Career Initiative website can be found at: <https://www.concordiacollege.edu/directories/offices-services/career-center/students/>.

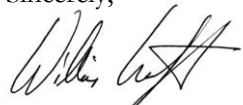
PEAK (Pivotal Experience in Applied Knowledge), together with the Career Initiative, is a distinctive signature for Concordia and a key element in Concordia's commitment to every student. The Faculty Senate approved the new integrated learning requirement that will lead all students to apply the discoveries of the liberal arts to the unscripted challenges of real life. We call our students to achieve an education focused not simply on credits but on building competence, creativity, and character in collaboration with faculty and staff. The PEAK requirements go into effect with this fall's entering class.

The Diversity and Inclusion initiative is rooted in Concordia's mission. For 125 years, Concordia has educated young men and women to engage in thoughtful and informed influence on the affairs of the world. As a global liberal arts college of the church, Concordia is committed to strengthen access to the benefits of our existing educational and cultural programs. And at the same time, we also understand that to succeed in this goal, we will need to connect with new communities, reexamine and revise its internal practices, educate ourselves and cultivate new skills. We desire to embody the excellence that arises when our people courses, ideas, and common life include a broader variety of human experiences. To support this effort, we have appointed a Diversity Coordinator of Student Support Services who provides direct support and assistance to all students for issues and concerns related to diversity, equity, and inclusion. In May, the College Council for Diversity was appointed to lead college thought and action on the diversity of our population, our curriculum, and our culture.

On August 1, Dr. Edward Antonio, our inaugural Chief Diversity Officer will join us. Dr. Antonio holds a Ph.D. from University of Cambridge. He is an experienced teacher and prolific scholar of religion, theology, and issues of diversity and inclusion in global societies. Since 1997, he has served in various capacities at the Iliff School of Theology in Denver including Director of the Peace and Social Justice Studies Program and Associate Dean of Diversities. He also teaches at the Conflict Resolution Institute in the Korbal School of International Studies at the University of Denver. Dr. Antonio will work to support and enhance all aspects of the college's diversity and inclusion efforts. He will work closely with faculty and staff across the campus in advancing the broad leadership agenda and addressing critical aspects of diversity and inclusion on the campus and in the community.

In our mission of faith and learning, in our distinguished faculty and staff, in the lives of our graduates who now influence the affairs of the world, we build on a firm foundation that serves our students and the common good. Soli Deo Gloria.

Sincerely,



William J. Craft, President