Dear Campus Community,

November is the traditional month for giving thanks, and we have many things for which we can be thankful: high-quality academic programs, a beautiful campus and students, and faculty and staff who are committed to providing an outstanding educational experience for our students. Each person has an important role to play in Henderson’s continued advancement, and I thank each and every one of you for the role you play in moving the university forward.

We also appreciate our community which supports Henderson’s mission and our students through the Arkadelphia Promise and in many other ways. Through service, we express our gratitude. It was gratifying to see 650 Henderson volunteers participate in Reddie to Serve Day last month. Despite the rain, teams of volunteers raked leaves, walked dogs, picked up trash and completed a total of 68 projects to help those in need. This is a great example of the persevering Reddie Spirit in action.

Hundreds of children and parents came to our campus for the annual Henderson Halloween celebration. Thanks to all of the student organizations that handed out candy, interacted with members of our community and helped create an atmosphere of fun while welcoming our guests. This is just one of the many ways students give back. Many Greek letter organizations and other student groups complete additional service hours with organizations such as The Clark County Humane Society or Relay for Life. Henderson students also filled backpacks with supplies for elementary school children and helped staff the Family Day and Homecoming events that were held on campus last month.

In a video recorded during the Freshman Service Day earlier this fall, a new student expressed gratitude that Henderson was a place that offered her an opportunity to serve. In her words, “...that means I chose a good school.” Our commitment to service is one of the things that attracts people to Henderson and sets us apart from other institutions of higher learning. This is why our efforts toward community engagement are so important. If you have not already done so, I encourage you to visit the HSU News Blog and type “service” in the search bar to explore the ways Henderson gives. You can also find some great examples of programs that specifically serve our area on the Community section of our website.

Thank all of you who participated in Reddie for Henderson Day on November 12. We had approximately 600 prospective students and their parents preview HSU on that day. We have received many glowing reports about the genuine hospitality our faculty, staff, and students extended to our guests throughout the day. These reports highlight our campus culture which has a significant impact on our ability to recruit outstanding students to HSU.
The search for our next Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs is nearing its apex with three outstanding candidates scheduled to visit campus for interviews next week. The candidates are excited about Henderson and the opportunity to interact with our campus community. Please assist us in the process by attending the campus open forum and providing feedback on each of the candidates.

The search for a Director of Athletics continues to advance with many individuals expressing interest in the position from around the country. I am hopeful that the search will conclude prior to the holiday season. Relatedly, the search for an Executive Director for Marketing and Communications has been closed without an appointment being made. The search will be re-started in the near future as we strive to find an individual with appropriate array of skill sets that will enable us to capture and communicate the wonderful stories of Henderson to even broader audiences.

I am pleased to share that the strategic planning process is progressing very well. The Strategic Planning Research and Guiding Statements subcommittees are working diligently to analyze and interpret all data related to our institution while simultaneously reviewing the campus’ critical guiding statements. Our next strategic planning Town Hall meeting is scheduled for December 3 at 2:30 p.m. in the Education Center, rooms 107 and 108. At that time, the Strategic Planning Steering Committee will share its first drafts of the core values, mission, and vision statements with the campus community. Please place this very important meeting on your calendar. The dialogue and feedback from this session will be very helpful as the committee continues to refine the emerging strategic plan.

I hope you all have a wonderful season of thanksgiving with family and friends. Thank you again for your intentional and spontaneous acts of service to the university and to our community. They are what make Henderson the School with a Heart.

In Reddie Spirit,

Glen Jones