



August 18, 2022

Dear Campus Community,

As we mark our fourth day of class, I want to thank all of you for the work you are doing to welcome and serve students. *Students First* is not just an initiative, it is how we help students transition to campus, forge purposeful relationships, make sure that their needs are heard and met, and continue to build a culture of student success.

The Reddie Spirit is strong, as was evident at the Pine Tree Assembly on Monday night ([watch video](#)) and in the ways that we continue to persevere despite the challenges of financial exigency and a conversion to the Banner system. Implementing a new enterprise system in such a short timeframe has not been ideal but will lead to improved services for students longer term. We are continuing to apply aid to student accounts as we track toward Census Day on August 29 and are working on a transition plan for transcripts in the coming weeks.

There has been a core Banner Team working all summer to prepare the campus for the start of school while at the same time converting to a new comprehensive operating system. This has not been an easy conversion. We are indebted to each member of the team for the over and above efforts being made. We will be stronger and able to serve more students effectively as we move forward with the fall semester.

Thank you to those who participated in the Reddie Hub during the last week to provide direct services for students and resolve questions with schedules and bills—and thank you to those who have helped direct students to new classroom locations and instructors as we have worked through the Banner implementation and first week of classes.

As I mentioned at the Faculty and Staff Fall Conference, we still have work to do with our modified cash budget. As of July 31, 2022, we are expecting annual savings of \$7-8 million from vacated positions. We will need to balance these savings against enrollment revenue for fall and will provide additional updates in the coming weeks.

Preliminary enrollment numbers show slight gains in first-time freshmen, significant growth in graduate enrollment, and a decrease in returning students. As of August 17, we have 2,484 students registered for Fall 2022 compared to 2,982 students in Fall 2021. These numbers change daily as registration continues, and we will not have final numbers until Census Day on August 29.

Our goals remain the same—we will open the door of access and opportunity for every student, increase completion rates, and align outcomes to high demand careers. Thank you for your work to serve students as we begin the semester.

Joining you in service,

Chuck Ambrose