



There are so many successes to celebrate every academic year, and this year was no exception. Whether directing students to campus resources, supporting academic growth & achievement, looking out for students' emotional well-being or lending a listening ear, I hope **you recognize** the contribution **you** had to the success of our students. These and many more student-staff connections often come at critical times and positively impact student outcomes. Even though the year-end celebrations have concluded, I see the connections you provide every day.

Results from a recent study based on the Lumina-Gallup survey affirm what we hear from our students: financial concerns, family responsibilities, and emotional stress lead to the challenges for students to remain on track and engaged in their educational endeavors. As you are aware, these are complex and persistent challenges that we seek to address in order for students to come here and thrive.

So, the question is - *What can we do, as a campus community, to support our students' return to college this summer and next fall semester?* Here is what is currently in progress: Summer Refresh; student-centered postcard mailing; Triton in the community this summer; and outreach by calling students.

Going forward, let's embrace 5 areas of focus as indicated below. While these are not new ideas or practices, they are efforts, when sustained, that will result in building and providing stronger connections to those we serve. We know that post-secondary education is valuable and leads to fulfilling careers and measurable increased earnings. Therefore, we want to elevate these best practices with promising outcomes for our college.

1. Encourage FAFSA completion;
2. Reconnect with applicants who expressed interest but did not attend;
3. Reach out to Adult Learners and communicate how we can support them;
4. Reconnect with community partners and participate in community events;
5. Promote & share our student stories of success.

Soon you will learn more of how to get involved and actively participate in these ways of strengthening our engagement with current & prospective students as well as our district communities.

I am so appreciative of your contributions to the college community and anticipate more to come in our work together!

President Moore