

March 9, 2007

To the OSU Campus,

I am very honored to serve as interim OSU System CEO and President and I look forward to working with each of you during this time of transition for Oklahoma State University. The OSU/A&M Board of Regents is very appreciative of the dedicated work of the faculty and staff of OSU and the Regents are confident we will move forward together as a university community in the months ahead.

Going forward I want to ensure that we remain committed to the priorities established in the University strategic plan and that we continue to build on the momentum which has been built across the entire OSU System. As the land-grant institution of Oklahoma, we have a very special mission as the 'people's university', one committed to teaching, scholarship, and outreach to our students, the citizens of Oklahoma and the wider national and international community. Each day I am privileged to observe the outstanding efforts of our faculty and staff in the fulfillment of that mission.

The most immediate priority is working with state leaders to secure funding for higher education that will assist us in limiting tuition increases, address faculty and staff salary and fringe benefit needs, enable us to move forward with our capital projects, and assist us in addressing our academic priorities. We seek funding at a level that moves Oklahoma State University closer to the national average. To that end, I have had the opportunity to meet several times with Chancellor Glen Johnson, with legislative leadership and with the presidents of other Oklahoma universities. I am optimistic that higher education will remain an important priority for Oklahoma.

At the recent Board of Regents meeting our 2005 Master Plan was approved and I want to commend Joe Weaver, faculty members of the School of Architecture, and many others for creating a dynamic working document that will guide the future development of the OSU campus. The input of members of not only the OSU campus community, but also the Stillwater community is sincerely appreciated.

Congratulations are in order to Janet Spittles, a secondary education senior from Delaware, Oklahoma who has been selected Student Employee of the Year. Janet is a student employee in the band office and her contributions to OSU, along with those of so many of our student employees, are deeply appreciated.

The recent Washington Monthly Annual College Guide identifies OSU as the sixth highest ranked Big 12 school and 86th overall in schools that foster research, national service, and social mobility. I believe the academic accomplishments of OSU faculty and students have long been understated and overlooked. I anticipate, in the months ahead, an increased focus on academic excellence at OSU and look forward to continued contributions from all of the members of our community.

I want to express my appreciation for the many kind words and support I have received

since assuming this position. I am excited about what we can accomplish in the days and weeks ahead. I wish the very best for the semester ahead and, as we approach the spring break week, I wish you safe travel.

Marlene Strathe