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## UA3/9/7 Opening Faculty & Staff Convocation

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## Opening Faculty & Staff Convocation

Fellow Faculty and Staff:

A new academic year is just around the corner. I want to welcome our new faculty and staff, many of whom are also new to Bowling Green. Julie and I look forward to having the new faculty to the President's Home for a cookout on Friday, August 16, at 6 p.m. I also want to get on everyone's calendar the time and date for our Opening Faculty and Staff Convocation. We will gather at 8 a.m. on Friday, August 23, in Van Meter Hall. This is the one time a year when we bring the University family together in one setting. I look forward to sharing with you the highlights of the year just ended and our outlook for the year ahead.

Some students are already back on campus. Most will be arriving the week of August 19. I encourage everyone to roll out the red carpet, particularly for our new freshmen who make up the Class of 2017. Let's all work together to get them off on the right foot and increase the chances of persistence, retention, and graduation.

Over the next two weeks, we will be wrapping up a number of campus improvement projects. It has been a busy summer, particularly at the top of the hill with electrical and steam line replacements. We have been able to improve lots of walks and curbs, numerous classrooms, campus lighting, and various other projects that are best done during the summer months.

On a broader note, the Kentucky campus leaders are working on a higher education budget model for this year's legislative session. I shall be sharing more details with you about that as the fall unfolds.

Again, welcome to new faculty and staff, and let's all welcome our new students. I look forward to seeing you at our Convocation on August 23<sup>rd</sup>. Welcome back!

Gary A. Ransdell