CHS family,

Over the past few years, we have built ourselves inwardly strong as a college. Now it is time to become more well known in the community, and each of us has an important role to play. That was one of my messages at last Friday’s CHS Vision Summit. Thank you to our Executive Visioning Team for their hard work in producing this valuable annual meeting. More than 140 CHS faculty and staff logged on, and I was pleased attendees were able to spend time together discussing the college’s vision and plans for the future. If you were unable to attend, I hope you will find a few minutes to read the remarks I shared at the beginning of the summit.

**Taking the lead**

During the vision summit, we discussed CHS’s role as a health leader that initiates collaboration with community partners. I can think of no better illustration of this than Carl Yamashiro, an associate clinical professor of biomedical diagnostics and program director of our Master of Science in Biomedical Diagnostics. He was named the Arizona Bioscience Educator of the Year by the Arizona Bioindustry Association for his innovative program that connects students with 40+ companies and other community organizations to help solve challenges. Please join me in congratulating Carl for this recognition which acknowledges the innovative way he partners with the external community to prepare the next generation of diagnostics professionals. Read more about Carl’s work in ASU Now.

**Leading with respect**

For communities to consider us a primary collaborator, we must live the values that support effective engagement and partnership. One key value is respect for each other and for everyone in our community.

On Monday, Oct. 12, we have an opportunity to show respect for and learn from our neighbors through Indigenous Peoples Day in Arizona, a commemoration recently proclaimed by the governor. While ASU will not have its fall break that was previously scheduled for that day, you may wish to join one of the virtual Facebook events hosted by local organizations from Oct. 9-12.

Here are some ways we are fostering and strengthening our community focus, especially to address the health disparities of underserved populations:

- **ASU Indigenous Health Summit**: CHS has taken the initiative to become a primary collaborative partner in organizing a virtual Indigenous Health Summit in January 2021.
The summit is a result of discussions with Dr. John Molina, the Corporate Compliance Officer for Native Health, after his successful presentation at a past CHS Health Talks webinar on underserved communities. We are working with Dr. Molina to convene a planning team driven by tribal priorities and stakeholders to craft a summit focused on solutions to current health issues important to indigenous communities. Jacob Moore, Associate Vice President of Tribal Relations, has agreed to serve as the ASU lead.

- **Veteran health solutions:** Any CHS faculty and staff interested in veteran health are invited to attend an internal meeting, “Conversation for Collaboration - Veterans Health,” on Oct. 5 from 3 – 4 pm. Join by Zoom. Chris Wharton, Matt Buman, Marcus Jones and Nate Wade would like to learn about your experiences, current projects and planned projects within this area as well as provide an opportunity to brainstorm new ideas. This meeting will inform discussions underway for a veterans initiative led by ASU with our partners from the PLuS Alliance.

- **Diversity, Equity and Inclusion update:** Last month, more than 45 individuals answered the call for self-nominations to join the CHS Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Council. This enthusiasm shows the high value and importance that our colleagues place on ensuring that diversity, equity and inclusion are at the forefront of our work within CHS. After careful consideration of all the applications, council leadership invited 17 faculty and staff representing different hubs and academic programs to serve on the Council. The inaugural group will meet on Oct. 5 and begin identifying priorities for its work. We look forward to hearing more as this initiative moves forward.

- **Story time:** We continue with the Eagle Book Series, the award-winning diabetes education resource. In this week’s story, *Knees Lifted High*, Mr. Eagle helps Rain that Dances and his friend Thunder Cloud think of ways to be physically active as their ancestors were to keep their bodies healthy.

**Strengthening our inner community**

In closing, I would like to mention a wonderful example of our inner community strength—our support of the CHS Employee Emergency Fund in recent months. Thanks to your support, we raised more than $500 with which we were able to help purchase grocery gift cards for 10 student employees experiencing needs due to COVID-19. This fund is still accepting donations, and we will continue to help additional applicants through your generosity. Please encourage any CHS employee who might be experiencing such needs to apply through this form.

Remember, you have a place to belong in our strong CHS community.

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