COVID-19 has been isolating for many people, but at CHS, it has brought us together. That was one of my messages at last Friday’s All-College Meeting. More than 250 faculty and staff logged on, and I was so pleased that we were able to spend time together reflecting on our college values, accomplishments and aspirations. If you were unable to attend, I hope you will find a few minutes in your busy schedules to view the State of the College video shared during the meeting. We have all worked so hard, and there’s so much to be excited about in the year ahead!

We are here for each other

Nothing brings me more pride than seeing how we demonstrate our core values of collaboration and teamwork as we work toward our common goal of improving health outcomes. Many of us are feeling stress from the challenges of living through the start of a semester in the midst of a pandemic, and I see people reaching out to help and troubleshoot together. Our caring learning community can make the load we carry a little lighter. Here are other ways to foster and strengthen our caring community:

- **Culture of inclusion**: We must foster inclusion and belonging for all CHS students, staff and faculty. On Friday, our guest speaker, Colleen Jennings-Roggensack, challenged us through this video and her comments to think about what we personally will do to create a more inclusive and just environment at ASU and beyond. She reminded us to keep evaluating whether our actions meet our purpose of serving the community. We can do this as individuals and through groups such as our diversity, equity and inclusion council. We will look for ways for CHS to participate in President Crow’s 25 actions to support Black students, faculty and staff that were announced this past Wednesday, Sept. 2.

- **Design aspirations**: You have a place to belong at CHS, and CHS has a place to belong at ASU. That is why our future CHS aspirations are aligned with ASU’s design aspirations. As you review the State of the College video, please reflect on where the college is going and how your strengths and interests align and intersect. I talked about my vision for each aspiration. I would love to hear about your vision and ideas. Please email me with your thoughts on one, two or all eight of the design aspirations at CHSDean@asu.edu.

- **‘This must be home’**: One small way I have tried to be here for parents and children in the pandemic is through my story time videos. In this week’s story, some might relate to Corduroy, a stuffed bear who is a bit bedraggled and doesn’t look as new as the other toys in the department store. Through the love of a little girl, he finds acceptance, a solution for his problem and a caring place to call home.

- **Taking care of ourselves when ill**: Being here for each other starts with self-care. If you
are ill, please give yourself permission to take time off. **When we asked every instructor to identify an individual who has agreed to be your backup, we did that so that we can help each other, support each other and take care of each other.** If you have tested positive for COVID-19, or do not feel well for any other reason, please hand over your responsibilities to your colleagues. Even though Zoom makes it possible to teach or work while ill, **please do not do so.** I appreciate how much you want to support our students and take care of your work responsibilities. However, we must take care of ourselves first so that we can continue to be there for them and our families.

**Employee Political Activity**
Some of you have sought guidance about what you can and cannot say in class or in class materials about the upcoming election. We have received the following information from ASU’s Office of General Counsel (OGC):

What’s extremely clear is that **you cannot advocate (in your ASU role, or using ASU resources), either expressly or implicitly, for particular candidates or positions** (ACD 205-01: Political Activity and Lobbying). Please do not do so.

However, **you CAN encourage students to vote** and provide them with information on how to do so, including how to register to vote. Active civic participation is a university value.

In the spirit of providing non-partisan information, the following sites have been deemed acceptable to share with students:

- [https://www.azcleanelections.gov/how-to-vote](https://www.azcleanelections.gov/how-to-vote)
- [https://students.asu.edu/voter-registration](https://students.asu.edu/voter-registration)
- [https://libguides.asu.edu/politics/election2020](https://libguides.asu.edu/politics/election2020)

Again, the key is to **avoid any (express or implicit) partisan or directional communications**.

Monday is a university holiday for Labor Day. Please take some time to rest and celebrate your labor.

Enjoy the long weekend and take good care,

**Deborah**

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