



Dear Barons,

I hope you're having a great summer and are gearing up for another rewarding academic year. Shortly after graduation, I had the opportunity to collaborate with leading community college presidents throughout the country as part of the Aspen New Presidents Fellowship.

The experience reinforced what I've been saying: we cannot rely on enrollment growth to overcome higher education's financial and enrollment challenges. As the pool of potential students continues to shrink, we have to focus our efforts on giving the ones we have a better entry into college, more support to stay on track and, ultimately, successful completion.

My conversations with peers revealed that amazing colleges have fixed, improved and doubled down on these three key areas. These colleges will be more successful for their students and the long-term viability of their institutions. We are well on our way to making strides in these critical areas. This summer's agenda is filled with examples:

- A program redesign aims to reduce the time students spend in developmental math courses while increasing their odds of success.
- Work continues toward implementing a student planning model to help students stay on track toward completion and ensure they know exactly what to take to meet their goals.

- Improving the schedule in which we offer classes, including the winter session, will optimize the way we offer classes and help students graduate more efficiently.

We remain vigilant about removing inefficiencies that distract from the larger-impact priorities: Senior Leadership has been working to identify and rank the projects that are most critical to the institution's success, several departments have been involved in implementing technology that will automate the process from curriculum approval through catalog production, and other departments have been working to reimagine the winter session that will be more productive for students.

There's much more to share about what we have done, are doing and will do to improve developmental, retention and completion efforts when we gather as an entire college on Friday, Sept. 22. I also have some compelling data from my Aspen Fellowship that really illustrates why this is so important.

**Let's  
Share  
the  
Mic**



I prefer back-and-forth conversations with you throughout the semester. There are many opportunities for us to have meaningful conversations including:

- Collegewide gathering – Sept. 22. 9 am to noon. Votta Hall.
- Governance – Sept. 22. 12:30 pm to 2 pm. Votta Hall / virtual.
- Governance – Oct. 27. 12:30 pm to 2 pm. Mount Holly / virtual.
- Support Staff conversation with the President. Nov. 13. 9:30 am to 11 am & 2 pm to 3:30 pm. Votta Hall.
- Faculty Conversation with the President. Nov. 17. Noon to 2 pm. Votta Hall.
- Governance. Dec. 1. 12:30 pm to 2 pm. Votta Hall / virtual.



**[“Community College 3.0: What’s Next for the Student Success Agenda?”](#)**  
by Joshua Wyner, vice president and executive director of The Aspen Institute’s College Excellence Program, is a guiding light for community colleges that aspire to excellence. Although written in 2016, it is still relevant and championed by me and other community college leaders throughout the country. Many of my peers in the Aspen Fellowship program focused on how our institutions can achieve 3.0 and I trust that the work we’re doing will put us on the trajectory to reach 3.0 and beyond!

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