Welcome to the Spring University Update. In the past, we have only given a University-wide update once per year. This year, we have committed to giving our campus community more information about the projects, initiatives and the state of the University. So, we are hosting this session today and two more next week (to share the major initiatives planned for the University this year.

At the August 2016 State of the University address, I called the faculty and staff of Regis University to reimage our future. I want to thank (you for the wonderful work done this year to help the university move past feeling restrained by our financial situation, and toward planning a bright future. In fiscal year (FY) 2017, Regis has initiated this shift and our University is poised to rise.

Our three-year financial plan and our ongoing strategic planning effort has brought stability to our academic and operation enterprises. I hope these longer-term planning efforts are also bringing, unity within our University around our vision and future.

Building on our commitment to faculty, staff and students, in fiscal year 2018 a major initiative will be revisiting our campus master plan to focus on our infrastructure needs for: 1) improved academic space; 2) additional and improved housing; and 3) student-focused facilities. Regis has a 21st century faculty and staff, but not 21st century facilities and technology infrastructure. Plans to modernize and grow the physical campus to support student success include:

- contemporary classrooms;
- student-centered space;
- continued renovation of Main Hall;
- renovation of our Student Center; and
- the addition of critical student housing.

I want you to know that the mission of Regis University is vibrant across our campus. As the premier Jesuit, Catholic university in the Rocky Mountain West, the magis lives in our extraordinary commitment to achieve goals that further our mission. In planning for our future, this University remains committed to the mission of our founders, our Catholic identity and to being grounded in the values of Jesuit educational tradition.
We need to constantly revisit guidance from St. Ignatius of Loyola in everything we do at this University. I hope you saw and read my email sent on Thursday of last week about having difficult conversations. This was the 4th communication between the Provost and myself about very difficult topics - I sent a letter following the presidential election, another following an executive order about immigration and the Provost recently sent a letter about engaging in civil discourse. We are communicating to you about these issues because they are about social justice - a core purpose of our university - and because they touch many members of our campus community. We held a conversation last week: during which students expressed genuine hurt over issues related to race, gender and privilege. I want you to know that we are listening to students from all perspectives. A primary responsibility to our students is to teach them how to have these difficult conversations in a respectful and civil manner. I urge you to be aware of the important issues we face on this campus and to model civil discourse in your world and interactions with students.

To talk more about how we are engaging on campus and our plans for this year, I'd like to invite Dr. Janet Houser, Provost, to discuss the next phase of our Strategic Plan. Janet .....