

THE STATE^{of} Western States

July 2, 2018

Dear Colleagues,

We recently published and distributed the 2017-2018 edition of the [University of Western States Annual Report](#), focused on real-world applications of whole-person, integrated health care. Along with the information contained in the Annual Report, I also want to share with you the following updates about UWS. Think of it as our “State of Western States” address. This will be a companion piece to the Annual Report to ensure that alumni and friends are up-to-date on the most recent UWS news.

The state of Western States is strong. The university continues its strategic growth and development, both in terms of increased enrollment and additional programmatic offerings. Admission in our flagship chiropractic program is the highest it’s been in last two decades. UWS currently offers eight academic degree programs, with two programs under consideration. Accreditation with the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities and the Council on Chiropractic Education is in good standing. And, as highlighted in the [Annual Report](#), University of Western States is financially healthy, secure and strong.

As the university continues to advance, our strategic emphasis underscores the need to continually invest in student services and facilities. To support these essentials, the Board of Trustees has encouraged the administration to explore acquiring additional campus space within a 10-mile radius of the current Northeast Portland campus. You can learn more about the **facilities planning initiative** and sign up to receive special email updates about this planning at www.uws.edu/facilities-planning.

In light of the university growth and diversification, the **academic leadership** is dedicated to ensuring that faculty members are supported in their teaching and that our students continue to receive excellent, evidence-informed education. In the last year, we hired or promoted the following people as deans:

- Denise Dallmann, ND, MS, Dean of Teaching and Learning
- Kathleen Galligan, DC, Dean of the College of Chiropractic
- Dana Sims-Barbarick, PhD, Dean of the College of Graduate Studies
- Janet Tapper, MLS, Dean of Library Services

We are excited to continue our legacy of excellence in education supported by strong academic leadership. Look for profiles of our newly hired deans on the UWS website.

As our student body becomes more diverse, **we are reiterating our commitment to inclusion, equity and cultural competency.** We have convened a diversity committee, which is implementing

a series of trainings for faculty and staff and working closely with students to promote diversity and inclusion at University of Western States. Learn more at www.uws.edu/diversity-and-inclusion.

We are nearing the end of the first year of the **UWS 2017-2020 Strategic Plan**. This plan was developed in 2016 with inclusive input from faculty, staff and students. The strategic plan has five major goals:

- Enhance our ability to purposely collect and use data.
- Ensure academic programs meet the needs of future graduates.
- Optimize current infrastructure to meet the future needs of the 21st century campus.
- Enhance the employee experience.
- Ensure financial and institutional sustainability.

The initiatives supporting these goals will position University of Western States to continue as a recognized leader in health sciences education.

One initiative within the strategic plan that I'd particularly like to highlight is our plan to increase outreach and connections with alumni and friends of the university. As part of this initiative, our alumni relations office has launched **Switchboard**, a digital space to connect with the UWS community by *asking* for what you need and *offering* what you want to share.

Switchboard is designed to showcase the things you care about most, like jobs, patient referrals, practice management, shadowing and advice. Sign up at uws.switchboardhq/sign_up to start connecting with your colleagues in the UWS community.

Finally, I'd like to announce our **Listening Tour to strengthen two-way communication between the university and our alumni and friends**. We know you are deeply invested in the future of integrated health care and the continued success of University of Western States, and we want to hear your perspectives about our ongoing initiatives. Upcoming alumni-and-friends events will provide an opportunity for you to ask questions and provide comments about the university's direction. Learn more about the Listening Tour at www.uws.edu/listening-tour.

To receive invitations to these intimate conversations with UWS leadership, complete a [Contact Information Update](#) to ensure we have your correct email address and to opt in for "invitations and other correspondence."

And, as always, please feel free to reach out to me directly at officeofthepresident@uws.edu.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joseph Brimhall". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Joseph Brimhall, DC
President