



UNIVERSITY OF
NORTHERN
COLORADO

Office of the Provost

August 21, 2017

To: Provost Leadership Team

From: Robbyn Wacker, Provost

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robbyn".

Re: Fall enrollment information

As fall semester gets underway, I would like to share with you the continued progress we are making on growing enrollment and look ahead to the coming year. While exact enrollment figures will not be available until census in September, there are some encouraging indications as of opening day.

I am pleased to report that our total enrollment is projected to be its highest in 10 years. We have experienced three-year growth in overall enrollment (8 percent), graduate enrollment (29 percent) and undergraduate enrollment (3 percent). Again this year, our census projections include significant growth in graduate students. Similar to what other Colorado public colleges and universities are experiencing, we project that enrollment for first-time freshmen will hold steady. The same can be said for transfers. Competition for both of these students continues to increase each year.

Specifically, new graduate student enrollment is projected to be up over 5.5 percent from last fall. We also believe that our campus will be more diverse as the number of new students of color will be up over 4 percent from last fall. Also of note, there's over 3,300 students who will be living on campus this year, in part because we will have the highest number in a decade of returning students living in the residence halls.

As we have seen in the past three years, the state of Colorado can no longer invest in higher education to the extent that it once did. Two-thirds of our operating budget now comes from tuition and fees, and we work in an environment with an increasing number of universities competing for students. In response to these significant changes, we asked for your help in growing our enrollment, and you have responded to that call. It will be important to continue these efforts in the coming year to increase our enrollment and tuition revenue in order to meet the Five-year Fiscal Sustainability Plan goal to cash flow positive in FY19. Our work this year will include:

- continuing to build on our enrollment success and refine our targeted efforts to reach new first-time freshmen in this competitive environment;
- increasing our efforts to retain the students we admit;
- increasing the number of transfer students with targeted outreach and by identifying more distinct partnerships with other institutions;

- increasing graduate student enrollment by responding to emerging needs and developing new programs;
- increasing the diversity of our students by building on the past four years of successes and enrolling more students of color; and
- increasing the number of international students.

I would like to thank everyone who has worked very hard this past year to recruit, enroll and retain students; your efforts are making a difference! I look forward to working with the campus community in the coming year to sustain this positive momentum.

Please pass this communication along to your faculty and staff. I will be back in touch in September with our Fall Census report.

Thank you.