

Greetings,

As I mentioned last month, I'll be sending a monthly message, updating the community on strategic initiatives and celebrating our achievements at Lewis. I'll also remind you about some things to look forward to in our community calendar, and offer reflections on the state of higher education and its impact on Lewis.

I'm particularly grateful for the series of educational opportunities offered by Bill Siler in the Office of Sponsored Programs entitled biannual retreat and discussions related to our broader higher education context, including mission, finances, and student success. In addition, the Board had a regular business meeting where it approved proposed changes to the Faculty Law and approved two new programs: a certificate program in training and development, and a master of science degree in health information management. Finally, the [Board approved](#)

tenure and promotion for this year—but the primary purpose of tenure is to protect the academic freedom of our professors. Professors conduct scholarship and teach in fields that are both grounded in history and also always evolving as new facts, contexts, experimentation and innovation push the scholarship forward. Tenure allows faculty to publish

and teach new findings without fear of reprisal from administrators, donors, or public officials. One example of why these protections are needed is the difference in understanding between the scientific community at large and the positions held by many of our elected public officials regarding the causes and risks of climate change.

I support the values underpinning tenure wholeheartedly and am working to increase the number of tenured and tenure track faculty on campus. This year we are conducting eighteen tenure track research and ten reclassifications. I also know that the privileges and protections of tenure come with a set of responsibilities, including the call to serve as leaders modeling collaboration and the practice of mutual respect and collegiality.

While tenure is an important element of a thriving university, faculty at Lewis play a vital role at the university. Many of our faculty