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[www.uwp.edu](http://www.uwp.edu) Keyword: Provost

Dear Colleagues:

COVID-19 is still beating us and another terrible shooting, this time close to home, has sparked protest, rage, and destruction in our community. I am thinking about what this means to me, what it says about our country, and what we might do about it at UW-Parkside.

I’m from Montreal, about an hour from the U.S. border. Like most Canadians growing up, I was awash in everything American. I meandered through as an undergraduate commuter, the first in my family to attend college. When it was time, I left to learn more, married, dug into a career, became a U.S. citizen, raised a family, and chased the American Dream that has attracted and excluded countless. I got a good deal of what I came for and increasingly understand that a good deal of it depended on others as well as on access to a high-quality, higher education.

I wonder about the American Dream for others, for our students, and for those who could be our students?

When I emigrated, the U.S. was the only superpower, democracy was ascendant worldwide, and nations were opening their markets to American goods, services, culture, and science. Today, the vision for our nation’s role in the world has contracted, wealth and influence continue increasing among the few, and our democratic institutions seem less up to their tasks. Many of us don’t believe we can address our biggest challenges. About half do not even vote in presidential elections, almost the lowest rate among highly developed, democratic states. And African Americans, who for most of our nation’s history have been subjected to laws intended to limit their access to the benefits of our more perfect union, are waiting impatiently for the rest of us to recognize this and do more about it.

How well we address our national problems is the report card for our democracy.  I don’t think we’ve done that well in recent semesters.  Some think we’re doing really poorly. They protest and offer powerful input on what we should do to make improvements. A small number that don’t believe they have another way to be heard, use violence to tell us what they want. If we condone this, we condone lawlessness and dissolution of civil society. We can’t and don’t. But, if we don’t seek to understand why this is happening, how can we move forward?

As a society, we need to better educate ourselves to understand the complex issues we face and participate as citizens in the solutions.  Universities, especially those engaged in their communities like UW-Parkside, are institutions well positioned to do this work. This is our work!

Our Academic Plan elevates strengthening student success, enrollment, curriculum relevance, and campus community as goals. It is based on a theory of change implying more education improves quality of life and the health of our region. We’re making progress in measurable ways on all these goals and will hopefully continue to do so.

This moment in history calls us to reflect more deeply on the health of our democracy and what we can do to create greater access to an American Dream for all our students. And if our next academic plan focuses on the needs of students of color, we can model civic engagement our country will need to heal our democracy.

Rob Ducoffe

Provost & Vice Chancellor, Academic and Student Affairs

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***Ranger Restart Update from Dr. Renee Kirby***:

Many of you have asked why we have transitioned away from using the phasing approach as part of the Ranger Restart.  Our phasing was created several months ago and based on the Badger Bounce Back Plan from the State of Wisconsin. The Wisconsin Supreme Court struck down the use of the Badger Bounce Back plan for the state during the summer.  In addition, Kenosha County Public Health disbanded the phasing from their dashboard.

Since that time, campus leadership has been monitoring key indicators from area counties which are listed on our website below the [COVID-19 dashboard](https://www.uwp.edu/RangerRestart/dashboard.cfm). We look specifically at the number of tests administered,  number of cases which are positive,  percent positive cases on a 7-day and 14-day rolling average,  and hospital capacity for patients.  We also meet weekly with the Kenosha Public Health Officer to review data and discuss plans to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

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**2020 Census**

The U.S. Census Bureau is ramping up its efforts to accurately count students, faculty, and staff at institutions of higher learning for the 2020 Census. Due to COVID-19, the deadline for the Census had initially been pushed back to October 31. However, the **federal government recently moved the deadline up to September 30**. Please check the attached sheet for information.

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**5 Things You Should Know:**

* [Continuing Education Mini Courses](https://www.uwp.edu/explore/news/online-mini-courses.cfm)
* [SSS Trio Grant](https://www.uwp.edu/explore/news/sss-trio-grant.cfm)
* [Tales from Virtual Orientation | Shania Weaver](https://www.uwp.edu/explore/news/virtual-orientation-weaver.cfm)
* [Back to School | College of Business, Economics, and Computing](https://www.uwp.edu/explore/news/back-to-school-cbec.cfm)
* [Faculty and Staff Fall 2020 Convocation Awards](https://www.uwp.edu/explore/news/2020-convocation-awards.cfm)

And as always, make sure to keep an eye on the News page and on our social media for updates!

\*Please note that this week, we had held several news stories from being published out of respect for current events.