



MEMO

TO: Hawk Family

FROM: President Anderson

Date: October 23, 2020

Greetings Hawk Family!

Last night, we watched the last presidential debate from Belmont University in Nashville, TN. As members of a campus community ourselves, we don't need reminding how important our voices are in creating a positive intellectual climate for our nation now and into the future. And as we saw in our own Town Hall, conducted so ably by our students, we are passionate about exercising our rights to vote, to insist on not only being heard, but also to be counted as *change makers*. We can make a difference!

Let me note, before I say any more, how **proud I am** of all of us for reaching week eleven safely in our fall term. We are proving that working as a team, we can stay healthy and succeed against some highly difficult odds, so keep those masks on and wash your hands frequently!

Recently, I came across two new books I think you may find interesting. One is on the pandemic and another is on the future of work. Both of these are in their own ways shaping our next steps in so many ways.

If you have a chance, listen to the president and CEO of the Lumina Foundation, Jaimie Merisotis talk about his new book, *Human Work in the Age of Smart Machines*. He makes a compelling argument for the importance of human creativity, analytical thinking, and how to embrace the new opportunities afforded to us by harnessing the latest technologies. Above all, he reinforces the need for equity and access to diverse learning platforms - badges, credentials, college degrees, experiential learning- as the necessary mind training for successful growth and change. Just look at how our new Health Professions building is coming along to see the future of learning as we open new labs, create collaborative learning spaces, and enable state of the art research to all contribute to our mission at UMES.

Also recently, Dr. Joseph H. Silver, Sr., a former president of Alabama State University who now leads an accreditation consulting firm, published a treatise called *Pandemic, Public Health, Race, and Class. The American Challenge*, in which he uses his training as a political scientist to perform the role of public

intellectual. In his book, Silver draws on information in the public media to illustrate how leadership matters in our current climate of inseparable crises of health care, social justice, and economic equity. Looking at how the federal government is handling the pandemic provides a springboard for Silver's deeper dive into the issues of motivation, character, and decision-making. *Everything we do has consequences* and no matter how public and transparent, or private, our decision-making is, at some point, *what we do will have an impact on others*.

Finally, while we are focused on crossing the fall semester finish line, I urge you to do a couple of more things to stay healthy. First, notice that the seasons are changing. Take time to walk our transforming campus. Please pause somewhere to breathe and literally look into the sky. If you are like me, the world, because of remote learning and meetings, has shrunk to however big your computer screen is. **Look up!** Your eyes and your spirit will thank you!!

Secondly, don't lose sight of what lies ahead! Yes, *get out and vote*, but more than that - be part of the plan for a better world. Read, engage in debate, even tweet or write a blog post about what you want in the world today and how you will be the one to start or support the next steps.

Leadership matters, and it comes in all forms -- not everyone needs to be in the front of the room, but we can all find, or better yet, *create*, a place for our voices and our goals to be shared and actualized. As writer Anthony Robbins said succinctly, "*Setting goals is the first step in turning the invisible into the visible.*"

Wear your mask. Be seen. Be heard. Let the world feel your wisdom!

With Hawk Pride,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Heidi M. Anderson". The signature is fluid and includes a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.