
From: LIGHT, AARON E.
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Reflections on College Development Day

What a great College Development Day! For me, the CEO panel was especially powerful this year. Hearing directly from our community and industry leaders reinforced just how important our work is in preparing students not only with technical skills, but also with the ability to think critically, adapt, and change. One theme that really stood out to me was the idea of failing forward (Max Buetow's comment about us needing to create a vessel that can fail). Our business partners made it clear that they value individuals who aren't afraid to fail, as long as they're learning from it. Not every experience in life, school, or work will go as planned and that's okay. The real growth happens when students can reflect, adjust, and try again.

The CEOs also spoke about the importance of "holding the line" when it comes to expectations for students, both in their academics and professional behaviors. That message challenges us to think deeply about our roles. How do we create an environment that holds students accountable for their actions and decisions, yet still allows them the space to fail and learn? And how do we support them through those experiences so that failure leads to growth rather than a reason to quit?

I also appreciated the CEOs talking about grit and curiosity. Grit being that determination and perseverance to keep going even when things get tough. Curiosity being the spark that drives students to dig deeper and want to learn more. How can we create classroom and campus environments that nurture both? Finding ways to do this will not only strengthen our students but also benefit their future employers in meaningful ways.

A Personal Note

I also want to say how much I appreciated the opportunity to address the college during my session yesterday. It was wonderful to see so many of you there and to have the chance to share a bit more about my background, vision, and the goals I have for us moving forward. I truly appreciated the thoughtful questions and conversations that occurred afterwards. If you would like to discuss more, please reach out anytime.

Dean of Health Sciences Search

We are moving forward with the search for our next Dean of Health Sciences and will be hosting open forum interviews soon. Everyone is welcome to attend and hear from our candidates:

- Dr. Michelle Crum — October 13 at 2:30 p.m. in PMC 103
- Dr. Dan Edwards — October 27 at 3:00 p.m. in LCN 211
- Dr. Hal Strough — October 27 at 4:00 p.m. in LCN 211

Your participation and feedback are important as we work to select a leader who will continue advancing the great work of our Health Sciences programs.

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