



President's Communiqué

Dr. Ken Kitts

July 6, 2022

Colleagues: Please see below for a few important updates as we move past the midway point of summer and begin to look ahead to the start of the new academic year.

Enrollment: Our strong showing in enrollment continues. With the second summer session now underway, we can report an increase of almost 3% in both headcount and credit hour production for Summer 2022 compared to last year's record numbers. The indicators for the upcoming fall term also look very promising. We expect to be up in all categories of students – undergraduate and graduate, on-campus and online, domestic and international. We also project a very large freshman class in the 1,100 range and are on track to have a record number of students living in our residence halls, apartments, and other UNA-affiliated housing. Our overall enrollment tally for the fall semester should place us well above 9,000 students for the first time in our institutional history. It's a great time to be at UNA!

Fred Gray: On July 1, the White House released the names of seventeen distinguished citizens who will receive the Presidential Medal of Freedom. One of those to be so honored is Selma attorney Fred Gray. Mr. Gray represented Wendell Gunn before a federal judge in 1963 during his successful quest to gain admission to Florence State College. For many years now, Dr. Gunn has been an important and influential figure in the movement to ensure that Fred Gray's contributions are appropriately recognized. Through letters and resolutions, many of us have joined with him to document Mr. Gray's role in achieving the integration of this campus – and to explain how that step paved the way for Dr. Gunn to make history a second time when he returned to UNA as a trustee for his *alma mater*. We were delighted to learn that Dr. Gunn has been invited to return to the White House (where he worked as an aide to President Reagan from 1982-84) to see his friend and onetime attorney receive the Medal of Freedom on July 7.

New VPSA: Dr. Kathleen "KC" White started work as our new Vice President for Student Affairs on July 1. Special thanks go to Associate Vice Presidents Minnette Ellis and Tammy Jacques for overseeing the Division of Student Affairs this past month in anticipation of Dr. White's arrival. We will plan a reception closer to the start of fall term to give the campus community an opportunity to meet KC and properly welcome her to campus. Stay tuned for an announcement with details on that event.

Important Dates: It's hard to believe that the start of fall term is only six weeks away. With that in mind, Dena and I hope you are enjoying the summer and are able to make the most of what remains of the break. Below are some important dates to keep in mind for the next few months:

- July 28 End of Summer II Session
- August 12-14 Residence Hall Move-Ins
- August 16 Annual Faculty/Staff Meeting and Ice Cream Social
- August 17 Classes Begin for Regular Fall Term and First 8-Week Session
- August 24 Last Day for Registration and Drop/Add
- September 5 University Closed for Labor Day