Dear Campus Community,

Good afternoon. Before spring break, the Strategic Planning Steering Committee met with the planning facilitator, Brittney Alls, to discuss and analyze the feedback received from the various planning forums and the campus-wide survey to determine emerging themes and recommended directions. The identified themes will ultimately become Goals and the Directions will become Strategies and Action Steps for our 2019-2024 Plan. This was an enormous task that involved reading thousands of comments, observations, and remarks, then categorizing and organizing those remarks to identify themes. I am sincerely grateful to the members of the Strategic Planning Steering Committee for all the time and effort they expended and, ultimately, their determination of preliminary focus areas/themes and recommended directions. As you can imagine, looking for trends from among thousands of written and oral comments was a Herculean task. Determining how important campus conversations begin to take shape as themes is a critical step in the university strategic planning effort. As you see your colleagues on campus, please join me in thanking them for their time and effort. The Steering Committee members are Rebecca Barnwell, Martha Lawrence, Carmen Williams, Todd Hagstette, Lloyd Dawe, and Bridget Coleman.

Now the work will focus on turning themes into goals and the Steering Committee will be asked to consider the general list directions to determine how to organize them under the Goals and determine which are broad enough to become Strategies and which will fall under Strategies as Action Steps. Once the Steering Committee has final recommendations on Goals and Strategies and Actions outlined, you’ll have a chance to comment on the work thus far.

You can review aspects of both our current FORWARD TOGETHER plan and the work in progress on the new plan by visiting the strategic planning website at https://intranet.usca.edu/strategic-plan. The new plan is currently being called LEADING FORWARD.
Thank you to all of you who have taken time from your busy schedules to be involved in this important process. We have many steps yet to go before a final plan emerges, but we are glad to say that we have seen a great deal of commitment and many good ideas emerging from everyone involved. One thing is already very clear - the faculty, staff, students, and alumni of this university care deeply about this institution and our shared future.

As we continue to move forward with the process, we will keep you informed via email and the strategic planning website.

Best wishes,

Sandra J. Jordan
Chancellor