

UNIVERSITY of NORTH CAROLINA
PEMBROKE

July 15, 2016

Dear BraveNation,

We hope your summer is going well as we prepare for the start of another successful academic year. Today as we mark Chancellor Robin Gary Cummings' one-year anniversary leading The University of North Carolina at Pembroke, we want to acknowledge some of our collective achievements over the past 12 months. These include record freshman enrollment, the opening of the Entrepreneurship Incubator, and the creation of a 3+2 dual-degree program with North Carolina State University's College of Engineering. In addition, we began updating the UNCP campus master plan, which will be supported by \$23 million from the Connect NC bond for a new School of Business building, and nearly \$3 million in state funding to improve pedestrian safety as well as enhance our campus gateway along Prospect Road.

We are fortunate to have a leader who understands the importance of UNCP to our community and region, and one who has the ability to advocate on behalf of the university with key decision makers. Notably, the new budget signed into law just yesterday offers a tremendous opportunity to advance UNC Pembroke's mission of changing lives through education.

Benefits of the budget include tuition predictability for our students and their families, salary increases for faculty and staff, and a one-time appropriation to UNCP of \$675,000. But the portion of the budget that has generated the most attention at UNCP – and which could have the greatest long-term impact – is our designation as an NC Promise Tuition Plan campus. As a result of the increased state investment, a UNCP degree is more affordable and accessible than ever.

Beginning in the fall of 2018, UNCP tuition will be \$1,000 per year for in-state students and \$5,000 per year for out-of-state students. This will put a UNCP education within reach for more students and allow them to graduate with less debt. While the price our students pay will decrease, the quality of their education will not falter. UNCP will continue to offer the same cutting-edge programs, inspiring student experience, and world-class faculty. The plan calls for NC Promise campuses to receive additional state funding to compensate for our preferential tuition rates, so each dollar saved by parents and students will be replaced by state funds.

We believe the plan will increase demand for a UNCP education. This will allow the university to grow while raising the overall academic standing of admitted classes though continuing to provide access to deserving students from our region. To be clear: NC Promise will not alter in any way the university's diversity, commitment to its historic mission, or service to southeastern North Carolina.

On behalf of the UNCP Board of Trustees and Alumni Association Board of Directors, we applaud Chancellor Robin Cummings for his leadership as this innovative policy was considered in the General Assembly. Recognizing the potential of NC Promise, his vision and levelheadedness enabled UNCP to have a seat at the table during deliberations and ensure the university's best interests were protected.

It's an exciting time to be a part of BraveNation. We have much to celebrate in our proud 129-year history and are optimistic about the bright future for our students thanks to our outstanding faculty, staff, alumni and community partners. Go Braves!

Sincerely,



Kellie Hunt Blue
Chairwoman
UNC Pembroke Board of Trustees



Owen Thomas
President
UNC Pembroke Alumni Association Board of Directors