

## Monday Matters: Engagement

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To: Dodge, Gail <gdodge@odu.edu>

Cc: Whitfield, Tiffany L. <tlwhitfi@odu.edu>

Dear Colleagues:

Welcome to the first week of classes and the new academic year! I know that we were “back” last fall, but I hope that this fall will feel even more normal. I appreciate that so many of you came out for our Welcome Back picnic for faculty and staff last Thursday.

It is worth reminding ourselves of the importance of engagement in everything from student success to job satisfaction. At ODU this has many aspects. We need to encourage students to join student organizations, go to class, and take advantage of the many resources on campus to help them succeed. We need to encourage them to come to office hours (better renamed student hours, if possible) and ask questions. We need to stress how these types of interactions can impact their learning and success.

I believe the same is true of faculty and staff. When we are together in person it creates a culture that is vibrant and helps to establish goodwill between colleagues. I hope that faculty and staff meetings will be held in person as much as possible and that faculty will be present in their departments most of the time. When students (current and future) walk down the hall I hope they will experience a thriving and bustling university.

The problem with this vision is obvious. It is easier and more efficient to participate by zoom at home than it is to go to a meeting in person. We are all very busy and have too much to do. Nevertheless, if we are to enjoy the full benefits of collaborating with our colleagues to advance our educational and research goals, then we need to be present. If we want to attract the best students, faculty, and staff to ODU, then we need to be present. If we are part of a thriving campus culture, I believe it will benefit all of us.

Are there times when zoom will have to do? Of course. I am asking you to be present more and to think about how to enhance engagement in your department or group. If you have any ideas about how I can support and encourage in person engagement, please let me know.

I am going to start listing upcoming events at the end of these Monday Matters emails as a reminder.

Best wishes for a wonderful semester!

Gail

### Upcoming Events:

- Friday Sept. 2 at 10 am: State of the University address by President Hemphill, Chartway Arena
- Science Fridays: 4 pm in PSB 1100
  - Sept. 9: Lisa Shollenberger (Biol) & Cassie Glenn (Psych)
  - Oct. 14: Jiangwen Sun (CS) & Erin Purcell (Chem & Biochem)
  - Nov. 11: Sandipan Dutta (Math & Stat) & Jeff Olenick (Psych)

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