

Monday Matters: Goals for the Academic Year

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

Dear Colleagues:

At the Faculty and Staff Welcome event I briefly discussed some goals for the academic year. I thought it would be useful to list them here.

- Finish the College strategic plan – this is a little behind schedule but we will pick this up again in the coming weeks and prepare an implementation plan for 2024
- Support the goals and activities of the ODU ADVANCE grant (RISE):
 - Increase recruitment and hiring of women faculty members
 - Ensure that new faculty are well supported & mentored; increase tenure and promotion of women
 - Improve the departmental climate to enhance inclusivity
- Offer science communication training
- Assess graduate student mentoring
- Assist faculty with AI integration
 - David Courson's office hours: Tues 1 – 2 and Thursday 11 – 12 (Chem 1000J)
- Promote a welcoming climate (applies to communication with students, too!):
 - Mentor and support new faculty and staff; onboarding matters!
 - Default to kindness and respect; assume the best.
 - Appreciate and embrace diverse points of view.
 - Communicate effectively.
 - Be present at ODU; engage with colleagues.
 - Celebrate success.

These are in addition to our overarching goals of promoting undergraduate and graduate student success, supporting faculty in teaching and research, and supporting staff in professional growth and administrative efficiency.

I look forward to your ideas about how we can make the College of Sciences a better place to work, learn, teach, and do research.

Best Regards,

Gail

Upcoming Events and Deadlines:

- Science Fridays: 4 – 6 pm
 - September 22, October 20, November 17
- Kirk Wetlands Lecture: Sept 28, 7 pm, Big Blue Room, Chartway Arena
 - **Ghost Forests as Symbols of Climate Change and Resilience**
Marcel Ardon Sayao, North Carolina State University
- Oct. 7: [Reign in Chemistry & Science Day](#) – outreach event for grades 3-12 kids

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