Message from Vice Chancellor Miller

Grateful for a New Academic Year!
The first week of class is underway, and I’m reflecting on the start of another fall semester. I’m grateful that as a campus community we’re able to come together for a new academic year!

While we work in very different departments and functional areas, together we share in the mission of serving students and this campus community! Over the last week, I’ve walked around campus and witnessed students in orientation, the Chancellor meeting with RAs, students checking into residence halls at the Fieldhouse Parking Lot, students picking up books and supplies, students getting served meals….I participated in Convocation – I witnessed the class photo – I walked through Valley Ballyhoo. In these settings and more, I’ve seen students express excitement to see each other and be back together. I’m also encouraged that individuals in our campus community are continuing to get vaccinated and that folks continue practicing COVID-19 prevention practices like wearing face coverings and washing hands.

As I reflect on the start of the new academic year, I feel grateful. I’m grateful for our students and their enthusiasm to be back in Cullowhee! I’m grateful for my colleagues in Student Affairs, and for all their efforts to get us to opening, the amazing work during opening, and for all the efforts yet to come this year! Thank you for your contributions to our students, our campus community, and to the start of a new academic year!

H. Sam Miller
Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs
Dear WCU Campus Community,

As senior campus leaders, we continue to refine the University’s plans around the “get vaccinated or get tested regularly” UNC System guidance. Following are several updates on our preparations. Further information on the testing and follow-up protocols, procedures, and frequency will be forthcoming as our plans mature.

Any faculty, staff, or student not fully vaccinated by Oct. 1 should expect to be subject to regular testing protocols after that date. Individuals may report their vaccination status by going to the Fall Operations and Procedures site and selecting the appropriate link under Vaccine Status Submission.

All full and part-time students who will attend any portion of their coursework or other university activity in-person in Cullowhee or at Biltmore Park will be expected to get vaccinated for COVID-19 or be part of a regular testing regimen.

We realize that most, if not all of you, would like to have firm guarantees and immediate answers to what the future holds with respect to this pandemic and the
University’s response to it. We want that, too. Unfortunately, the facts of the pandemic evolve quickly, resulting in the development and redevelopment of the answers that support our University.

We have accomplished so much over the past 18 months and will continue to do so in the months ahead. The journey has not been easy and your efforts have not gone unnoticed. We see the work, the preparation, and the grace and kindness you continue to show each other. We’ve also seen (and experienced) the impatience, the frustration, and the exhaustion that has come to us in these uncertain times. The way ahead may appear a little less smooth than we hoped just a few short months ago, but the resilience that we know each of you possess will see us through the challenges ahead.

We remain excited and committed to a robust campus experience this fall. We can, and will, deliver on our promise to provide the best education to our students both in and out of the classroom. Thanks to each of you for your efforts to get us there. We are grateful.

Sincerely,

Kelli R. Brown
Chancellor
J'OUVERT
AUGUST 28 / 9PM - 2AM
PICNIC AREA FREE T-SHIRT
TRADITIONAL CARIBBEAN STREET PARTY / SOCA DJ

HEALTH & WELLNESS FAIR
WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 1
WCU FOUNTAIN | 12 AM-2PM
RAIN LOCATION: CRC COURT 1

• COME AND LEARN ABOUT THE 7 ELEMENTS OF WELLNESS!
• FREE T-SHIRTS & GIVEAWAYS AVAILABLE!
Dear Catamount Community –

In addition to the sustained and compounding effects of the global pandemic, Tropical Storm Fred has left our friends and family in Haywood County and other locations around WNC facing great need. If you are contemplating ways to reach out and help, we offer the following opportunities.

WCU’s Center for Community Engagement and Service Learning and local Haywood County organizations are facilitating a donation drive on campus with the next delivery scheduled to depart WCU for Canton at 4:00 pm on:

- **Monday, August 30th**

With your support, we will work with Helping Haywood and Canton First Baptist Church to get the supplies to locations with the greatest need. For a list of primary items needed: [CLICK HERE](#)

If you are interested in donating funds that will be used to help flood victims directly:

- **Helping Haywood** - [CLICK HERE](#) (select Helping Haywood from the drop-down)
- **Canton First Baptist Church** - [CLICK HERE](#) (select Memorial Fund and type, “Disaster Recovery” in the memo line)

Please bring your donations to the Center for Community Engagement and Service Learning Lobby area right outside of Belk 273 between 8:00 am - 5:00 pm, Monday – Friday. If you have any questions, please email [laneperry@wcu.edu](mailto:laneperry@wcu.edu).

Yours in service –
Lane and the CCESL team (Jennifer, Amanda, and Brian)

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**Unit Highlights**
Campus Activities

- Cat Camp successfully held its first on-campus camp this year and 133 students completed the program. Thank you student coordinators and campus partners for your assistance.
- The RSO Re-Recognition for the 2021-2022 academic year is open.
- Construction work for the second and third floors is almost complete.
- The Student Government Association training for its executive team has begun. We are excited to work with this group of student leaders this year.

Campus Services

- Residential Living replaced all carpet throughout Balsam, Blue Ridge, and Buchanan Halls.
- Residential Living also successfully completed both professional and RA training during July and early August.
- Catamount Dining is implementing reusable to-go containers at the Courtyard and Brown Dining Halls. The Courtyard also had multiple renovations over the summer - come see the new look.
- The Bookstore is issuing Fall 2021 textbooks and launched a new-and-improved website to enhance the shopping experience.
Health & Wellness

- First Ascent concluded this week on Wednesday, with 21 participants enjoying outdoor activities.
- CAPS welcomed and orientated new trainees from WCU mental health programs.
- Dr. Ange worked with the vaccination team to develop processes to begin offering booster shots to patients that are immunocompromised beginning Tuesday, Aug 24, 2021.
- Applications are being accepted for *Catamount Wellness Ambassadors*! Students can apply at: [https://wcu.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_eWH81H56kwwhKo6](https://wcu.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_eWH81H56kwwhKo6)

Marketing & Assessment

- Design requests to start the semester have been busy. Thank you for using the design request system.
- The 2020 division annual report is complete. Hard copies will be available in September.
- The Assessment Office provided feedback on CIRs. Information has been sent to directors.
- New CIRs will be due to Jane on **September 20th** and due to the University Assessment office on **October 1**.
- The division provided information for the SACSCOC 5th year report.
ICA welcomed Lyndan Jones as the Project CARE Coordinator on August 10.

GSED has partnered with Athletics and SGA to work together to promote student attendance at football games.

Lambda Pi Chi received their charter.

The GSED staff attended the virtual Association of Fraternity Advisors annual meeting.

DSCE is preparing training for Conduct Hearing Board and reaching out to campus partners to plan different projects throughout the year.

The application cycle for first-year students for fall 2021 launched in early August.

WCU on Tour will be held September 13 - 15 and Fall Blitz, October 11 - 13.

Orientation wrapped up August sessions and will shift to planning for the next orientation cycles.

Financial Aid is moving all Federal Work-Study students in the Student Affairs Division to a minimum of $9.00 per hour. They will continue to work with Human Resources to review student employment hourly pay rates across campus to address equity.

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**DSA IT Committee**

**Removing IT Assets from Campus**

Do you use a university issued laptop, iPad, or computer from home? Have you updated your request to remove your assigned assets from campus? As we begin a new academic year it is a good time to renew your request to remove IT assets from campus which is due each year. Go to ithelp.wcu.edu, click on MY IT Assets, and select Complete My Off-Campus Asset Form.

**Next Meeting: Friday, September 17th @ 9:00 am | UC Dogwood Room**
Brandon MacCallum is the new Director of the Campus Recreation Center

Brandon is excited to serve as the new Director of the Campus Recreation and Wellness (CRW). Brandon started his career with the CRW when he was a student at WCU before the Campus Rec Center was even constructed, back in 2006.

From his time as a student, working with Intramural Sports, he realized then he wanted his career to be in recreation and is thrilled to continue working in the field in this new position. Brandon & Catherine also welcomed their daughter Addison Chandler MacCallum on March 6th. They have enjoyed learning a new way of life with a little one and can’t wait to raise her up in Catamount Country. Go Cats!

Katherine Spalding is the new Assistant Director for Health and Wellness Education
Katherine is a recent 2x alumna of WCU. In 2019 she graduated with a B.S. in Psychology. After various roles within the SGA during her undergraduate career, Katherine wanted to continue exploring her passion for Student Affairs through our HESA program. Katherine began her permanent role as the Assistant Director for Health & Wellness Education in June of 2021 after obtaining her M.Ed. in Higher Education Student Affairs in May 2021.

Prior to June, Katherine served as the Interim Assistant Director for Health & Wellness Education. She could not imagine working for and with anyone else. Katherine lives in Asheville and she loves to hike, run, and play with her dog.

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**Anthony Pohorilak is a new Area Coordinator for Residential Living**

Anthony Pohorilak, I am one of the new Area Coordinators here at WCU. I am a previous alumnus of the HESA master’s program here class of 2019! Worked previously at Washington State University and am coming most recently from the University of North Carolina Wilmington! He is so glad to be back in the mountains with his wife Leighton and son Ezra!
Laura Allison is the new Director of Event Services for Residential Living

Laura is a member of the Department of Residential Living family since 2007, has officially transitioned into her new role as the Director of Event Services. Throughout the coming year(s), she will focus on returning camps and conferences to Western Carolina University and the area while also reimagining what a “typical summer” looks like. When asked about her new role, she stated that she was thrilled to work and serve the department in a different capacity and can’t wait to use her strengths in a different light!

Additionally, she is excited about the opportunity to move off-campus and raise her two boys (Rhys and Ace) with her husband, Calvin!

Laura absolutely loves working at Western, living in the area, and couldn’t imagine her life anywhere else. She is blessed to be working with amazing people within the Department of Residential Living and to have such a loving family.

Paul is a new Area Coordinator for Residential Living
Paul is joining Western Carolina University from North Carolina State University, a recent graduate of their M.Ed. Higher Education Administration program. He will be working as an Area Coordinator for Balsam and Blue Ridge Halls in Residential Living. Paul loves staying active and being near the water (swimming or fishing), and enjoys reading Stephen King novels, and watching movies. He is from New Bern, North Carolina.

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**Myranda Warfield is the new Counselor-in-Residence**

Myranda (she/they) is a provisionally Licensed Professional Counselor in the state of North Carolina and a National Certified Counselor. Myranda is the Counselor in Residence for WCU. They graduated from Ohio University with a Master's degree in Clinical Mental Health/Clinical Rehabilitation Counseling and is currently completing a Doctorate in Counselor Education at the University of Florida.

Their counseling interests include providing services to LGBTQ+, student-athlete, BIPOC, international student populations, and the impacts of social injustice within marginalized communities.
Calista Colbert is a new Counselor with CAPS

Calista began her position as a Counselor with Counseling and Psychological Services on August 9. Calista completed her Master’s Degree in Clinical Mental Health Counseling from Appalachian State University in August 2021 and is actively pursuing licensure as a Clinical Mental Health Counselor in the state of North Carolina. She is certified in Expressive Arts Therapy and enjoys incorporating the arts into her personal and professional life.

Alex Carmago is a new Psychology Intern

Alex Carmago is a psychology intern who received both her B.S. and M.S. in psychology at Eastern Kentucky University in Richmond, Kentucky. She previously worked in in-patient and residential mental health facilities. Alex’s counseling interests include LGBTQ+, expressive arts, identity development and concerns, athletics, AD/HD, and anxiety.

Mahek Kapoor is a new Psychology Intern
Mahek Kapoor, a psychology intern, obtained her MA from Punjab University, Chandigarh, India. She has a special interest in working with women's issues and believes in providing a safe space for women to discuss life’s issues and connect with another woman who truly cares. She approaches therapy from a multicultural and social justice lens, utilizing a culturally sensitive framework for applying cognitive, affective, and behavioral interventions.

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**Bree Riley is a new Psychology Intern**

Bree Riley obtained her B.S. in Psychology from Keystone College and her M.A. in Psychology from Marywood University. She is currently completing a Psy.D. in Clinical Psychology from Marywood University in Scranton, PA. Bree treats a variety of mental health concerns with a specialization in the treatment of trauma, personality disorders, disordered eating, and sports psychology.

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**Congratulations**
Dr. Kim Gorman is serving on the Governor's Educational Emergency Funding (GEER) Student Mental Health Advisory Committee for the University of North Carolina System.

CATAMOUNTS CARE

WCU will continue to emphasize its Catamounts Care community standards to prevent the spread of COVID-19 throughout the academic year. We also encourage faculty, staff, and students to follow current CDC guidance with respect to recommendations on face coverings in other circumstances and locations. Current CDC guidance recommends face coverings in indoor locations for ALL individuals in areas with high or substantial transmission of COVID-19. CDC guidance is subject to change based on current conditions and the University may alter its face-covering requirements as needed.
Remember to visit the COVID-19 website for the latest campus updates and resources.

COVID-19 RESOURCES

Important Dates

September 2 - Employee Appreciation Day

September 3 - Apodaca Building Grand Opening

September 4 - Freshomore Run

September 4 - Home Football Game

September 6 - Labor Day Holiday
September 17-19 - Family Weekend

September 18 - EBCI Appreciation Home Football Game

September 25 - Mountain Heritage Day

Division of Student Affairs
Western Carolina University
Cullowhee, NC 28723