• **Strengthening our core:** I am really proud of the work that has taken place across campus over the past year or so to strengthen our core, including but not limited to: WCore (including all course types and emphases); Honors changes and lateral entry; undergraduate nursing and business redesigns; English program redesign; MBA redesign; 3 year undergraduate education degree; new minors in Montessori, entrepreneurship, data science, global studies; scholars to WestARCHES transition, eportfolio, civic engagement, and diversity and inclusion work supported by our faculty fellows; getting into the AACSB accreditation pipeline.

• **Faculty summer mentor stipends:** Congratulations to the following faculty who have been awarded internal or external stipends to work with students this summer: Bonnie Baxter, Brent Olson, Brian Avery, Brian Knaeble, Chris Davids, Christy Clay, Colette McAfee, David Kimberly, Eileen Chanza Torres, Frank Black, Jeff Nichols, Jessica Johnston, John Contreras, Julian Mendez, Kara Barnette, Kristjane Nordmeyer, Leo Figueroa Helland, Lesa Ellis, Mark Rubinfeld, Matt Baker, Robyn Hyde, Russ Costa, Sheng Xiao, Tiffany Rivera, and Will Deutschman. These faculty will provide mentored experiences to 48 students this summer. This is one of our highest impact learning opportunities and an important part of the undergraduate education for these students. Thanks to Brian Avery for the work he has done coordinating these efforts to identify funding for as many of these student/faculty pairings as possible.

• **Comprehensive campaign:** If you submitted ideas for the campaign to your dean earlier this year, please check back with them for an update. Work on prioritization for the campaign is still in progress, but there are some ideas that have been moved forward at this point (and will be part of feasibility studies) and others that have been removed from consideration. Once priorities are finalized, they will be shared with the community.

• **Registrar’s search:** 3 finalists will be on campus next week. There will be an afternoon open session for each (4-5 PM, Gore 228, M, T, W) that we hope you will be able to attend and provide feedback.

• **Grants budget sign off:** As a reminder to those of you writing external grants, please remember the internal grants submission sheet for your budgets. Your dean or I can help you with this as needed. [Form link](#).

• **NAC&U ambassadors:** For the past 2 years Shamby Polychronis and Dick Chapman have been our NAC&U ambassadors ([http://newamericancolleges.org/constituency-groups/843-2/](http://newamericancolleges.org/constituency-groups/843-2/)). This year Shamby will rotate out and Eileen Chanza Torres will rotate in. Thank you to Shamby for her work on this and to Eileen for her enthusiasm in starting this. You will be hearing from them once the fall semester begins.

• **Graduate research fair:** Looking forward to the new graduate research fair on Tues 4/26 from 6-8 PM at the Draw.

• **Continuing conversations:** Thank you to those who led our continuing conversation series this semester (The Woman’s Commission, Tamara Stevenson, Chris Davids). We appreciate the readings you provided and the conversations that you have started. Also a thank you to Eileen Chanza Torres for the work she and others have done with the students who have worked on Be a Human.

• **Education around racism:** A few of us are just finishing a 4 wk online seminar course entitled hard conversations: an introduction to racism ([http://www.37days.com/racism/](http://www.37days.com/racism/)) that I have really appreciated. There is another one starting on 4/25 if you are interested. There is also a book club (no charge to join) that reads 1 book/month and has a conference call to discuss. To join, see: [http://lifeisaverbstore.com/products/hard-conversations-book-club-fall-2015](http://lifeisaverbstore.com/products/hard-conversations-book-club-fall-2015).

• **Allies-101:** If you are interested in this allies-101 course, please let me know by May 2: Ever been confused why a colleague or co-worker took offense to your comments in a meeting? Want to know more about improving workplace relationships and supporting students? Want to make Westminster a better place for all to be and work in? Allies 101 is starter course created for staff and faculty who want to strengthen their identities as allies by raising their awareness of issues surrounding race, gender, sexual identity, and ability, among others. The course will use Allan Johnson’s book Privilege, Power, and Difference to explore major ideas surrounding these issues in our society and work climate. The course will meet from 1-2:30 pm on the following days: May 19 and June 2, 17, and 30. It is facilitated by Mary Jo Hinsdale, Director of the McNair Scholars
Program, and Gary Marquardt, Faculty Fellow for Diversity and Inclusion. Space is limited to 15 and books will be supplied for this course.

- **Commencement information:**
  - Regalia: Gowns should have been delivered to your school offices by last Fri. Try on your cap – if you need a better fit, or if there’s a problem with your robe, please contact Karnell.
  - Saturday April 30th: Commencement, Maverik Center: Assemble at the Maverik Center by 9:00 AM with your regalia. Enter through the southwest lower level door to the left of the main stairs to the arena. Note that the gathering room is not secure, so please leave all valuables in your vehicle. Processional will begin at 9:45 AM.