



NAROPA UNIVERSITY
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

January 7, 2011

Dear Community:

Contemplation for the week:

A happy New Year! Grant that I
May bring no tear to any eye
When this New Year in time shall end
Let it be said I've played the friend,
Have lived and loved and labored here,
And made of it a happy year.
~Edgar Guest

How we approach the New Year is important. This is an opportunity for new beginnings which is why so many people make New Year's resolutions. We tend to focus on habits that need changing or patterns we want to break. Yet I wonder if we have really looked at this new year with a view to what effect we will have on others. Perhaps we can show random acts of kindness, share a word of encouragement or help someone that we know is facing difficulty. I hope that we can consider thoughtfully how our goals and objectives for 2011 are designed to encourage or build up others, building relationships and reaching out to others to live and love and labor with a sense of reaching out to others.

Welcome Back!

During the time between semesters, the campus seems especially quiet and empty. It is delightful to have students back on campus now, however. Welcome to our new and returning students. I trust that you had a refreshing break and that you are now ready to be back at your studies!

Appreciations

As we begin this year of 2011, I want to extend a thank you to Harold Myers in the Facilities Department for his acts of kindness. Carole Clements recounted a specific experience where Harold stepped in to assist her. She wrote of Harold, "I noticed being nicer to everyone that evening: to the receptionist and nurse at my

appointment, and to my partner and his son later at home. Harold's kindness on Monday - and so many times before - was a pay-it-forward. I have noticed all week how Harold's helpfulness and patience with me has caused me to slow down in moments of self-absorption and speediness to be more present and helpful to people I'm with.

I want to recognize Harold and thank him for his exceptional spirit and work!!! He makes many of my work days brighter, and I am grateful to have him in our midst!"

Thank you to Harold and to all of our Facilities crew for all that you do every day.

Remember, if you want to nominate someone for an appreciation, just respond to this e mail.

Diversity

In my speech to the community at Convocation, I stated. "Diversity speaks to the inherent goodness of every person, and the necessity to witness this goodness in every member of our global family. We must all ask ourselves, how far do the bounds of our familial inclusion spread? This questioning is a responsibility of the entire community, yet starts with the individual. I want Naropa to lead the way in the integration of diversity, inclusiveness and community, setting an example for other colleges and universities, setting an example for the world."

I want to remind us of this as we move into 2011. In the way we conduct our business, handle performance reviews, discuss our future work and more, we need to be individually responsible for building a campus where a spirit of inclusiveness is nurtured.

Suzanne Benally departs today and we will all miss her gracious presence. Yet as she moves to new horizons, we are working to put together a plan to advance diversity, based on her recommendations. In addition to those decisions, which I expect to make shortly, we all need to focus on how we can enhance our diversity efforts in order to uphold the value of respecting every person.

Welcome Jill Grammer

On Monday, Jill Grammer started work as our Vice President of Development and External Relations, which now encompasses our Advancement and Marketing and Communications Departments. Jill's office (with all of her division) is located on the second floor of the Nalanda campus. She can be reached at JGrammer@naropa.edu. Jill is looking forward to working with the board of trustees as well as meeting members of all the constituencies of our community and stated, "I am energized by the talented staff and warm welcome I have received this past week. 2011 will be an amazing year for Naropa and I appreciate being part of this unique and authentic staff."

If you missed the announcement of her appointment, you can find it [here](#).

President's Tea

Join the Naropa community for an informal tea the second Thursday of every month at 4:30 pm in the Lincoln Gallery (first floor of the Lincoln Building). Tea and some light refreshments will be served. This is an opportunity for us to gather and enjoy the chance to meet one another and spend time in each other's company. That is Thursday, January 13, 2011 at 4:30 pm – come on by, no RSVP required!

Martin Luther King Day

Although the campus is closed on Monday, January 17, we will be having an acknowledgement of Martin Luther King Day on campus on Wednesday, January 19. Keiki Morris will be handling the details of the event, which is being organized by students. Please note the date on your calendar.

State of the University

The annual State of the University address will be held on Wednesday, January 26, 2011 in the Performing Arts Center from noon to 1:30. This event will be open to all members of our community – Students, Faculty and Staff. I will be sharing with you some of the progress we have made in the past year and that which we expect to accomplish this year. Please plan to join us for this time.

As we look to the upcoming year, we have an opportunity to deepen our own practices. I want to encourage our faculty and staff to take advantage of the opportunities that the Staff Executive Council is making available on the theme of contemplative administration, beginning with the Post-Holiday Presence gathering next Tuesday afternoon. We also have made copies of two books by Michael Carroll, *The Mindful Leader* and *Awake at Work*, available in the library. I hope that departments will work to allow various staff members to orchestrate their times to be able to take advantage of these special events.

All in all, I believe 2011 is shaping up to be an exciting year. The site visit team from the Higher Learning Commission will be returning in March of 2012, so we will be emphasizing data collection and assessment in the coming year. I am delighted to work with such wonderful colleagues, and look forward to continuing to make Naropa the world leader in contemplative education.

Go Naropa!

With best regards,
Stuart

Stuart C. Lord
President

Share your thoughts: Presidentlord@naropa.edu