



NAROPA UNIVERSITY  
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

## PRESIDENT'S FRIDAY LETTER

October 29, 2010

Dear Community,

### **Contemplation for the week:**

A Kenyan proverb states that “Sticks in a bundle are unbreakable.” I recognize that it is the effort of every individual working in collaboration with one another that keeps our University functioning effectively. We do need and depend upon one another.

### **Appreciations**

Beginning this week, I would like to acknowledge the contributions of people all around campus. If you see someone who has gone above and beyond, please share that information with me by emailing [PresidentLord@naropa.edu](mailto:PresidentLord@naropa.edu).

Thank you all, faculty, staff and students, for making Naropa a wonderful place to work and study. Specifically, I would like to take time this week to recognize the contributions of our administrative support staff across campus. Without those who bring ideas into tangible form through the creation of PowerPoints, Word documents and emails, without those who create databases to collect information and who answer the phones, keep schedules and are often the front line representatives of Naropa, all the rest of our work would be meaningless. Thank you to all of you who faithfully keep the work of the University functioning.

### **Mindfulness at Work**

A few weeks ago, author Michael Carroll presented an afternoon seminar for faculty and staff on being “Awake at Work”. In order to encourage our community to review these principles, I have made five copies of each of Michael’s two books available in the library: *Awake at Work* and *The Mindful Leader* are now available for you to borrow.

### **News: University Calendar Task Force**

Earlier in the academic year, I appointed a committee to review the academic calendar and to consider ways to enhance student experience, increase

opportunities for gathering as a community and incorporate contemplative practice into the academic schedule both on a daily basis and throughout the year. Jayme Peta, our registrar is chairing the committee and its membership includes Susan Burggraf, Bob Cillo, Barbara Dilley, Michael Franklin and Todd Kilburn.

Some of the work in which this Task Force is engaging includes:

- The Task Force will review the semester schedule and decide if the semester should be 15 weeks.
- The Task Force will evaluate distribution of when students should be in class.
- The Task Force will consider having a short term in January and compare to other universities of our size and interest.
- The Task Force will ask if there is enough contemplative time blocked out. For instance, the university does not currently have lunch together. Should we have an hour every day when there are no classes such as from 10am or at noon?
- The Task Force will determine a time or times to gather as a community.
- The Task Force will ensure that students have enough time to get from class on the Arapahoe campus to the Nalanda campus.

### **Policy: Sustainability Policy Adopted in the Office of the President**

The Office of the President, in reviewing its sustainability practices, has determined that bottled water will no longer be offered at Naropa University events. Bottled water accounts for a noticeable percentage of waste in the United States (66M bottles are trashed daily) <http://www.droptheprop.info/bottled-water-statistics> and such water is generally no better in quality than tap water, especially in Boulder County. We encourage each department throughout the University to review its own sustainability practices and to act in accordance with environmental stewardship and conscience.

### **Reminder: History Committee**

In preparation for Naropa's 40th Anniversary, we would like to form a History Committee that will have three primary purposes. The first purpose will be to compile information and then to create a written history of Naropa University. The second purpose is to work on the development of a video documentary on Naropa University. These two objectives will result in the creation of a planning committee to organize a series of events around the 40th Anniversary. If you have oral history or videography skills and would like to participate, or if you would like to nominate someone for the committee or as chair, please email Todd Kilburn ([TKilburn@naropa.edu](mailto:TKilburn@naropa.edu)). We still need nominations!

### **Interviews: Vice President for Development and External Relations**

Next Monday through Wednesday, three finalists for the position of Vice President for Development and External Relations will be visiting campus. All sessions below are open to faculty, staff and students and will be held in the Administrative Conference Room on the second floor of the Administration Building. The schedule is as follows:

Monday, November 1	4:30-5:15 pm	Candidate #1 - Sylvia
Tuesday, November 2	4:30-5:15 pm	Candidate #2 - Julie
Wednesday, November 3	10:15-11:00 am	Candidate #3 – Jill

### **Election Day - Tuesday, Nov 2**

I strongly encourage everyone to vote on Tuesday, November 2nd, and to remind your friends and family to get to the polls. As you know, our votes are crucial in electing our state and local decision makers, as well as determining the outcome of important ballot measures. Please help get the vote out!

In the same spirit of thankfulness in which the letter began, I am thankful for each of you as members of this community. I know we all are working hard to provide a superior contemplative education and to build a community with deep rooted values and compassion. It is a pleasure to work and study together with you.

**Go Naropa!**

In the spirit of service,

Stuart C. Lord  
President