



April 29, 2011

Dear Community:

Contemplation for the week:

“I hope your dreams take you to the corners of your smiles, to the highest of your hopes, to the windows of your opportunities, and to the most special places your heart has ever known.” ~Author Unknown

Reflecting on the last few days of the 2011-2012 academic year, and with graduation just over a week away, I am mindful that we all are people of aspiration. Dreaming is not considered something out of the norm here at Naropa; in fact, we dream big dreams. Yet many times our dreams are for our world, our community, or our loved ones and not as much for ourselves.

I want to take this opportunity to specifically address our graduates. I do want you to dream for yourself. I want you to have great big dreams that challenge and move you to places you never imagined. I want for you that you may smile with radiance, that you realize your hopes, and that you have exciting opportunities that take your heart to amazing heights.

This is your special moment in time; soon, you will cross a threshold to becoming an alumnus. My desire is that you might find the very best life has to offer as you move forward into your life ahead.

Last Week of Classes!

This is a very busy time of year as students are completing their theses, engaging the community in final performances and preparing to welcome families to campus for

graduation. I want to acknowledge the hard work and diligence of our students, many who are entering their final week at Naropa. Congratulations for all your hard work and achievement.

Thank you as well to our faculty who work passionately to help students take their learning into a more personal dimension. I recognize that you often work tirelessly to create change in your corner of the world. Thank you for your gracious service to our students.

Appreciations

This week I have a letter of appreciation from a division to the community.

“Development and External Relations wishes to send our gratitude to all faculty and staff for their ongoing service to our community. Faculty and staff give daily in so many ways. We consider all staff and faculty to be part of the Development and Communications team, as we all play a role in serving our students and advancing Naropa’s mission to infuse knowledge with wisdom. Your work is an essential component of our efforts! Thank you for being a part of our community and helping make Naropa a wonderful place to be.

- Development and External Relations Staff”

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

President’s Awards

As I mentioned in an earlier letter, the President’s Awards recipients will be honored at Convocation. Therefore, I am requesting nominations for the President’s Awards to be given at this year’s Convocation. The Award is given to one or more staff members and one or more faculty (Adjunct or Full time) members who have been of exceptional service to the Naropa community over the past year. The President’s Awards have been given at Graduation since 1989; this will be the first year they have been given during our Convocation Celebration. The University must have employed any Nominee for the entire preceding year; however, they may be part-time employees and/or Adjunct Faculty.

Please submit your nominations in writing to my office or by e-mail to me at presidentlord@naropa.edu on or before Monday, August 1, 2011 by 5:00 p.m. Your nominations should include: the name of the person, his/her title and/or position; and a specific description, including examples, of why the Award should be given to that

person. Please indicate who is making the nomination, as it is helpful in some cases to follow up with a telephone call for more input. The nominations will be confidential, except as I reserve the right to quote from them anonymously at the time of the award.

I look forward to receiving your nomination and thank you for your thoughtfulness regarding this important acknowledgement.

Tornadoes in the Southeastern United States

Across the South, our fellow Americans have been devastated by an onslaught of tornadoes. In Alabama alone, the death toll is nearing 300 lives with mass destruction also afflicting homes and agricultural lands. Adding to tragedy is the prediction by the National Weather Service that such “tornadic activity and thunderstorms” will persist “along the Eastern Seaboard.”

I ask that we all take pause for those who are suffering. ***Monday, I ask that you join me at 8:00 am in the Administrative Conference Room where we will be holding a community gathering to show our solidarity while coming together in prayer.***

In the coming few weeks, my office will outline plans for how we can serve the region. And at our gathering Monday, we will present a form to share some ideas on how we can help. You may also reply to this message with your thoughts and ideas.

During this time of tragedy, we affirm our commitment: Naropa will serve alongside our fellow citizens in need and together we will rebuild.

Commencement



Regarding Commencement, I want to remind the community about a few details:

- We will not be having a luncheon this year before the ceremony but will be enjoying a dessert reception following the ceremony.
- A very few tickets remain available for members of the Naropa Community, but basically the event is sold out. If you have not ordered tickets, you may contact Tashi@naropa.edu to inquire if any tickets remain.
- For those **with** tickets, the doors of Macky Auditorium will open at 2:15 pm. We encourage people to come promptly at 2:15 pm. Parking is often challenging at Macky, so you may park at Naropa and walk up the hill to the auditorium.
- For those **without** tickets, you may not enter the building until 2:50 pm, once we have a sense of how many open seats will be available.
- Lastly, we hope you will warmly welcome Gov. Howard Dean to Naropa. We are honored to have Governor Dean with us for this very special graduation time.

Board of Trustees

Our Board of Trustees will be with us on Thursday and Friday, May 5 and 6, meeting at the Boulder Marriott hotel. Currently, open sessions for the community are as follows:

Thursday, May 5, 2011

8:30-9:00 am	Sitting Meditation
9:00-10:00 am	Board Check in – Personal
10:00am - 12:00 pm	President’s Report
12:00 – 1:00 pm	Student & Faculty Trustee Reports

Friday, May 6, 2011

8:30-9:00 am	Sitting Meditation (open session)
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No Friday Letter Next Week

Due to the Board of Trustees meetings as well as commencement activities, there will be no Friday letter next week. I wish you all the most enjoyable of summers and to our graduates – go make us proud!

Thank you for being more than dreamers with me; thank you for being the very essence of my dreams.

Go Naropa!

In the spirit of service,

Stuart C. Lord, President

Share your thoughts: Presidentlord@naropa.edu