

Dear Colleagues,

After meeting with you throughout the day last week, I am even more excited about the transition and transformation taking place at UK Dining and across our campus.

There is tremendous momentum at UK and you are a big part of it. For everyone involved, particularly for those who could not make our meetings last week, I wanted to provide a brief recap of what we discussed:

—We are just a few days into this transition. I know transitions of this size — or any size — can be challenging. Change can be difficult. I am so appreciative of the attitudes and enthusiasm I've experienced from so many of you about the changes we are making, changes all designed around one idea: serving our students and the UK community. Thanks for what you are doing.

One compelling example of that change is the construction and revitalization process taking place with dining facilities. Over the next several weeks, we'll be moving forward with new dining options in Anderson Hall, the new Haggin Residence Hall to bring back K-Lair, the Chemistry-Physics Building, Student Center, Blazer Hall, the Commons and the new Champions Court I Residence Hall. At the same time, design plans are fully underway for the new Commons, a living, learning, and dining facility Aramark will be constructing near the W.T. Young Library, which will be open in Fall 2015. The new facilities — and changes to existing ones — reflect our commitment to students and to the entire community that you already serve so well. We're sending the message that we are positioning UK Dining for even greater things in the future. It's a commitment that exists throughout the campus.

—See blue U. — our two-day orientation session for first-year students and their families — is in full-swing on campus right now. I can't tell you how excited our new students are about the change taking place on our campus. And dining is a big part of that. Students are thrilled about the new and expanded dining options. They like the choices, the convenience and the healthier options that we are presenting to them. In many ways, you are leading ambassadors to the campus for these newest members of our UK family. Thanks for what you are doing to make them feel at home.

—Scott Henry, our longtime executive director of dining services, is now serving as the dining partnership executive director. In that capacity, Scott will be the direct liaison between UK and Aramark, our new dining partner. It's a critically important position and we are excited that someone of Scott's caliber and understanding of our institution has agreed to take on this role. In addition to Scott, staff from the office of finance and administration will continue to provide on-going support.

—As I mentioned, UK Dining is an important part of a larger transformation taking place across the University of Kentucky campus. Some \$1 billion in construction is taking place — from new residence halls to new classrooms and research buildings. We are building facilities that are designed to make UK among the handful of truly thriving

public, residential research campuses in America. Our transformation in UK Dining is an integral part of that process. Keep up with all the latest developments at the new UK Dining site: <http://uky.campusdish.com/>. We also will continue to keep pertinent information updated on our dining revitalization website — <http://www.uky.edu/DiningRevitalization/> — as well.

I look forward to more discussions and communication about this transition and transformation in the near future.

Go Cats!

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