

Holiday Greeting

December 7, 2004

Colleagues,

As we near the end of 2004 it seems appropriate to reflect on the many accomplishments we have achieved as a university community. The lists are endless among each of your individual departments and units. I'm sure there are several that stand out for each of you. By way of a summary, consider the following.

We have contained costs across the board through cost-cutting measures and lean approaches to doing business. In doing so, we have held the line on quality and value of an Oakland education. Faculty have experienced breakthroughs in research and creative endeavors and have involved students in their learning and discovery. Changes to our undergraduate curriculum progressed as faculty teams created visionary approaches to general education.

You have worked on behalf of students in our performance halls, athletics arena and playing fields, living environments and in extracurricular programming for personal development and success. We have wisely maintained and managed our campus infrastructure and facilities to offer the best learning and living environments possible. We have reached out to the community through our programming and cultural attractions and in doing so received widespread opportunities for students and faculty beyond our campus walls.

Gifts and pledges by alumni and friends of the university have been truly exceptional as we near a campaign fund raising level of more than \$60 million raised for the capital campaign. The All-University Fund Drive continues through December 22. I urge you to consider making your gift soon if you have not already. 2005 is a critical year as we prepare to publicly launch our campaign. Every bit raised now will make a difference during campaign kickoff as we consider our campaign goal.

Thank you for all that you do on a daily basis to make our university strong. Your contributions benefit our community and are the reason why students keep choosing Oakland again and again. My best wishes to you and your families during this holiday season and in the coming year. Enjoy the holiday recess and the time it brings for family, friends and relaxation.