



PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

BY STAN LIBERTY

President, Kettering University

Creativity is the common thread running through the sciences, the arts and technological innovation. As human beings we all possess this “talent” innately, although in widely varying degrees. No matter where our personal talents fall in the creativity spectrum, our effectiveness as builders, designers, problem solvers and innovators will be enhanced if we develop our creativity to the fullest extent. Academic curricula alone are not sufficient for accomplishing this. In fact, it is possible to stifle creativity in a curriculum by focusing too much on tools and techniques of problem solving, or by focusing too much on a particular problem rather than on the more general class of problems.

Therefore, as we strive to provide the best possible learning environment for our students, we must include a rich set of learning and developmental experiences for them both in the curriculum and in what they experience outside the curriculum. Co-curricular programming aimed at enhancing learning and developing creativity is a critical part of what we refer to as “student life.”

In the months ahead, you will hear more about new strategic initiatives in every facet of our institutional mission. Some of those initiatives are focused on enhancing student life at Kettering. These, along with academic initiatives and efforts aimed at better integration of work place learning and academic learning, will make Kettering even more attractive to prospective students. These initiatives will also add “transformational value” to a Kettering degree by enabling more complete individual development.

Most of our new initiatives will be programmatic in nature. We intend to provide a rich set of fine and performing arts programming for our students as well as provide many more opportunities for them to meet and interact with outside speakers addressing contemporary issues or providing stimulating programs on topics not commonly addressed within our internal academic programming. Some of our new initiatives will focus on new infrastructure. In the student life arena, we envision a much needed facility at Kettering that will be a physical center of student life. This new building will house not only a modern student center, but a visitor’s center and the University library. It will house the offices of student organizations, a food court, meeting spaces and space supportive of rich student interaction. It will be the new front porch of the University for prospective students, their parents and other visitors, and it will contain in one place many frequently required student services.

Soon we will have architectural renderings of this planned facility and we will share them with you in this publication. In the next issue of “Kettering Perspective,” we will show you our new mission and vision statements along with details on our updated strategic plan.

As always, we welcome your comments, your advice and your active participation in the further development of Kettering University.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "S. R. Liberty". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

S. R. Liberty