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Greetings Faculty and Staff!

As we approach the end of another academic year, I would like to thank you for your commitment to our students, our university, and our legacy. The achievements and accomplishments of the students at Virginia State University would not be possible without your support and dedication. I know that each of us can make a difference in the lives of our students so I look forward to the future filled with hope, optimism, and excitement.

The next academic year which begins with the fall 2019 Opening Conference will be shaped by our new strategic plan. This year, the theme of the Opening Conference will be "*Building Upon Our Past, Imagining Our Future: The Pathway to Preeminence with Purpose.*" The Opening Conference Committee is diligently working to ensure that this year's conference will be enlightening, uplifting, and enjoyable. During the conference, I will highlight some of the University's accomplishments across the colleges, including faculty, staff, and student accomplishments. I will also share some of the new state requirements and changes for higher education that will impact us in the upcoming year.

In an effort to ensure that everyone can take part in our Opening Conference, the dates of the conference will be shifted slightly to accommodate those who are usually unable to attend because they are assisting with registration and student services. This year's conference will include workshop sessions for ALL faculty and staff. The committee has scheduled a dynamic speaker for our opening session who is sure to touch the minds and hearts of each of us as we continue to strive to provide transformative learning experiences for our students.

Please save the dates, and plan to join us August 13th and 14th for our fall 2019 Opening Conference. It will be exciting event that will launch us into another amazing academic year.

I look forward to seeing each of you there!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Makola M. Abdullah'.

Makola M. Abdullah, Ph.D.
President