



**VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY**  
**PETERSBURG, VIRGINIA 23806**

OFFICE OF THE PROVOST/VICE PRESIDENT  
FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS  
(804) 524-5997

FAX (804) 524-5738  
TDD (804) 524-5487

August 9, 2019

Greetings Faculty & Staff,

On behalf of President Makola M. Abdullah, it gives me great pleasure to welcome you back to the start of the 2019-2020 academic year. To celebrate this occasion, the first faculty and staff meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 13, 2019, at 9 a.m. in the Virginia Hall Anderson Turner Auditorium. This year's theme for the opening conference is "Building Upon our Past, Imagining our Future: A Pathway to Preeminence with Purpose." Through engaging fruitful conversations and professional development opportunities, we are striving to create a better, more transformative workplace and academic culture.

While attendance for this event ensures the fulfillment of contractual obligations for our faculty and administrators, I am respectfully requesting the presence of all our staff in order to establish an ethos of strategic, issue-driven conversations that will elevate our institution. Please refer to the attached 2019 Annual Fall Faculty & Staff Opening Conference agenda for specific detailed information regarding the logistics of the conference. Information will also be made available on the VSU website at (<http://www.vsu.edu/news/announcements/2019/2019FallConference.php>).

Your participation and adherence to the itinerary is truly appreciated. I look forward to seeing all of you on Tuesday, August 13.

Respectfully,

Donald E. Palm, III, Ph.D.

Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic & Student Affairs