

University FOR Missouri: Where People Meet Possibilities

Chancellor's remarks:

Good morning, everyone.

I'm Chancellor Alexander Cartwright, and I'm thrilled to be here today.

Thanks to all of you for attending or tuning in to our livestream.

And thank you to everyone who made this event happen.

I also want to thank President Choi, our curators and our elected officials for their continued support of Mizzou.

The quotes our students just shared reflect some of the fundamental values of this institution.

Those words were first delivered by previous University of Missouri leaders in 1891 ... in 1908 ... and in 1930.

Despite the dated language, it's notable that those values articulated so long ago remain relevant today.

As we embark on a new academic year, our challenge and opportunity is to fulfill our continued mission in new and innovative ways.

Before going any further, I'd like to invite each of our readers to stand as I introduce them, and I ask that everyone please hold your applause until the end.

From the College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources Student Council, Brock Winslow. Brock is an agribusiness management major from Linn, Missouri.

From the Online News Association Mizzou, Tiffany Nguyen. Tiffany is a strategic communication major from Kansas City.

From Alpha Epsilon Delta, the national health pre-professional honor society, Brooke Lappe. Brooke is a double major in biological sciences and anthropology from Farmington, Missouri.

From the Graduate Professional Council, Al Willsey. Al is a doctoral candidate in philosophy from Belton, Missouri.

And from the Legion of Black Collegians, Kelsie Wilkins. Kelsie is a strategic communication major from Flossmoor, Illinois.

Please help me thank all of our readers.

As we begin, it's important to first note the tremendous strength of this university.

Mizzou has been a champion of education, culture and economic excellence for Missouri, the nation and the world for the past 180 years.

We should all be proud of that legacy and our contributions to that excellence.

I knew how exceptional this university was when I came here last August, and this past year has deepened that knowledge.

We are Missouri's flagship university, a member of the prestigious Association of American Universities, and a mission-driven, land-grant institution.

That is a powerful combination.

But what makes it so powerful is you.

You may have noticed this speech is called "Where People Meet Possibilities."

Today, I'm here to talk about our Mizzou community — our students, faculty, staff, alumni and our supporters.

Together, we are building the next era here at Mizzou.

Over the last year, I have outlined our vision for how to push this university and its possibilities forward.

But according to a quote attributed to Thomas Edison: “Vision without execution is hallucination.”

So today, I won’t be announcing a lot of new initiatives as I did earlier this year.

We are now focused on delivering on those plans.

I’m very proud of the concrete progress we’ve made so far.

We are seeing the highest student retention rate in MU’s history.

Our residence halls are almost at full capacity, with 29 percent more returning students living on campus.

Diversity in our freshman class is up this year.

As we work to build on those positive trends, we know our Mizzou family makes our excellence possible.

We have more than 12,000 staff members who support our campus, hospitals and clinics.

We have those in Mizzou Athletics who help our student-athletes compete at the highest levels and excel academically.

We have world-class faculty who fill our studios, run our labs and teach in our classrooms.

Real magic happens here.

Faculty and staff are constantly pushing for innovation — reinventing the way we teach, the way we operate and the way we facilitate research and creativity.

Without our faculty and staff, we wouldn’t be seeing a more than 13 percent increase in first-time students this fall.

Our success is also driven by the passion of our supporters who give to further our highest goals.

We have the most generous and committed donors and alumni — I would put them up against any other university.

Their generosity recently helped us cross the \$1 billion mark in our Mizzou: Our Time to Lead campaign, which provides important investments in student scholarships and life-changing research.

These supporters see the excitement I see here, and they are investing in our vision because they believe in what we can do together.

It makes me so proud to be part of the Tiger family.

This summer, that family just grew a little.

I'd like to recognize two talented individuals who've recently joined us:

The first is MU's new Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Latha Ramchand.

Provost Ramchand has some extraordinary plans for our students, faculty and programs, and I'm so excited to welcome her to Mizzou.

Provost Ramchand, would you please stand and be recognized?

The second person is Kamrhan Farwell, the new chief marketing and communications officer who is jointly appointed with MU and the UM System.

The Mizzou story is an important story — for our citizens and for our state. I'm thrilled to have Kamrhan help us tell that story in the best ways possible.

Kamrhan, would you please stand and be recognized?

Lastly, I want to recognize Mizzou's magnificent students.

You are leaders across our campus, the community, Missouri and the world.

You make the rest of us want to work harder every day to find new ways to help *you* succeed.

For our students, many of our efforts this year have focused on expanding scholarship opportunities.

We have made existing scholarships more accessible and added new ones, such as the ROTC scholarship.

The number of outstanding students bringing National ROTC scholarships to MU has more than doubled this year.

Two of those scholarship recipients are joining us today.

Please help me thank them for their service.

We are also listening to our students' concerns and working to improve campus resources, including student health options.

We are reducing wait times for mental healthcare, and we're forming the Chancellor's Standing Committee on Student Health and Wellbeing that will include students to explore how we can meet even more of your needs.

We hope to show all of you — and your families — that we're here for you — anytime, anywhere.

Later this fall, we are rolling out a 24/7 response system — using chatbot technology — that will be accessible to anyone, anywhere in the world to answer questions about financial aid, new student programs and more.

We're also simplifying how prospective students can apply for admission to make the path to becoming a Tiger easier.

Starting October 1, high-achieving potential students can expect a 48-hour, two business-day turnaround on application decisions.

We are an innovative institution — rethinking everything from technology to student services — so that you can focus on your education.

A Mizzou education is deliberately special and hands-on.

It extends beyond the traditional classroom setting so that our students get hands-on experience in their chosen fields.

Our journalism students, for example, spend at least one semester in a newsroom helping to publish a daily newspaper or produce content for our local National Public Radio station or NBC affiliate.

Our ag students work with state-of-the-art biochemistry instruments, craft Buck's ice cream from scratch, or conduct conservation research at our network of Agricultural Research Centers across the state.

But don't just take my word for it — here's a short video of MU senior Denajha Phillips showing us the value of the Missouri Method.

[VIDEO OF DEE PHILLIPS]

Thank you, Dee.

The Missouri Method and our focus on experiential learning makes a Mizzou education more valuable for our students.

We're in the middle of a strategic planning process to make the Missouri Method an even larger part of Mizzou's DNA so that all our students can have at least two high-impact learning experiences before they graduate.

For Dee and the students seated on stage — and for all of the students who make up Mizzou's student body — learning beyond the classroom creates an educational culture that builds leaders.

And building leaders is what Mizzou is all about.

More than 400 current CEOs have come out of the College of Engineering alone.

One of our alumni CEOs is David Novak.

Last September, David endowed the Novak Leadership Institute with a \$21.6 million gift, charging Mizzou to educate a new generation of leaders.

Through Novak Institute workshops, seminars, and service learning, hundreds of journalism and strategic communication students are learning what it takes to be leaders and how to apply the Novak principles to all that they do.

Our goal has always been to bring the Institute's value to every Mizzou student, in every discipline.

Starting in the spring of 2019, we're launching a leadership survey course that will give up to 200 undergraduates of all majors the chance to learn valuable leadership strategies.

Students will also be able to work with companies like Google, Facebook, Adobe and others.

The Novak Institute is one of several campus programs that support our students with hands-on learning and global opportunities.

The Kinder Institute on Constitutional Democracy, the Cherng Summer Scholars program and the Novak Institute are great examples of how we are making our vision of student success a reality.

We are a university where tomorrow's leaders are educated — no matter what discipline you study.

At all levels of education and scholarship, we're evolving our culture.

We're focusing on what we can DO instead of simply talking about what we HOPE to do.

I've seen an amazing willingness in our community to adapt.

And, we've received incredible support from our faculty who drive so much of this excellence

Our excellence is only limited by what our people can do — and they can do extraordinary things in all subject areas.

We have artists who collaborated to produce the Chancellor's Showcase, and researchers who helped us collect more than \$250 million in research funding last year.

To continue this excellence, we are investing more in the research and creative works of our scholars.

Mizzou is ready to build more multidisciplinary centers and to recruit the best global talent to campus.

We do this by moving together and prioritizing key multidisciplinary activities.

I'll share an example with you.

In February, I announced a proposed Artist in Residence Program.

Today, I'm pleased to announce that we will officially launch that program next month.

Housed in the College of Arts and Science, our Artist in Residence program will bring both nationally recognized and emerging artists to campus for high-visibility events.

In addition, the program will celebrate artists already on campus and in our community and provide students new experiential-learning opportunities.

The University of Missouri is a comprehensive university, and we recognize and value the importance of many areas of study.

At Mizzou you find strong programs from the arts to engineering, from education to veterinary medicine ... and a 10-megawatt research reactor that supplies cancer fighting material to the world, and furthers research in many vital areas.

Only a handful of other universities in the nation have this combination of scholarly activities.

We are harnessing the power of these strengths as we make progress on our planned Translational Precision Medicine Complex.

This \$200 million facility will be a leading center of multidisciplinary discovery that will help treat illnesses such as cancer, Lou Gehrig's disease and heart disease.

And the TPMC will create partnerships that bring those treatments to people across the state and around the world.

MU and the other UM System campuses are working together through the Precision Medicine Initiative to align our expertise and further propel this revolutionary field.

Here's a short video featuring Dr. Jeffrey Bryan, professor of medical oncology in the Department of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery, to tell you a little bit more about this initiative.

[VIDEO OF JEFF BRYAN]

Thank you, Dr. Bryan.

The TPMC will be a game-changing complex for Mizzou, the UM System and the world.

It will help us produce the innovative heart stents an interdisciplinary team of engineers, biomedical scientists and cardiologists are already developing.

It will refine the "magic bullet" cancer treatment that a team from MU's Bond Life Sciences Center demonstrated could destroy cancer cells without damaging normal ones.

These are just a few examples of how we are creating a campus environment that helps our faculty propel their creativity and discovery.

And we're doing it through data-informed investments and strategic public-private partnerships.

As part of that effort, I'm appointing Dean of the College of Engineering Elizabeth Loba as vice chancellor for strategic partnerships.

Dean Loba will continue to lead our College of Engineering while driving the TPMC effort and related partnership planning.

She will help our campus identify other partnership opportunities and will serve as the main MU contact for the TPMC and the System's Precision Medicine Initiative.

I'm confident in her leadership for this new and exciting endeavor.

As we double down on our commitment to scholarship across campus with a Research and Creative Growth Plan, I'm excited to see how each college and school helps us capitalize on our current resources as well as hire in our areas of excellence.

Our recent hires across the arts and humanities illustrate the scholastic depth we attract to Mizzou.

New faculty, hired in the past year, are bringing more than \$20 million in external research funding to campus — and growing.

These are just several of our many successful hires.

Moving forward, every hire we make will be a strategic one.

We take our role as an institutional leader very seriously, and all these efforts in education and research make Mizzou a university of the future.

Now, our responsibility is to continue taking this knowledge and these discoveries into the community so that we can be the economic engine Missouri needs.

Mizzou has a \$3.9 billion impact on the state — and we support more than 46,000 jobs across Missouri.

But we want to do even more to grow Missouri's economy.

Over the past year, we have evaluated and restructured our economic development efforts in conjunction with the UM System to become a more efficient and effective institution.

We will generate an ecosystem that better supports innovation and entrepreneurship among our faculty and students.

And we'll help bring those developments into the marketplace where they can become the startups and small businesses that stimulate our economy.

We are committed to what my mentor, Satish Tripathi, would always talk about: the three E's:

excellence, efficiency and engagement.

Moving forward, we expect to do even better in these areas as we continue to serve all of Missouri and its more than 6 million citizens.

As a land-grant university, we have a unique responsibility to bring our knowledge and discoveries to the state and the world.

Over the last year, Marshall Stewart — MU's Vice Chancellor for Extension and Engagement and UM System Chief Engagement Officer — has worked to make our impact felt.

He's gone out into the field, visited with citizens and learned about the particular challenges facing each community — from our urban areas in Kansas City and St. Louis, to the northern plains and the southern Ozarks.

Marshall and I want each and every Missourian to feel the benefits of Mizzou knowledge and to have a voice in shaping our outreach.

That's why we're collaborating with citizens in northwest Missouri to address their unique challenges associated with wind farms.

And our recently funded Springfield Clinical Campus will help MU-trained physicians work hand-in-hand with rural communities to combat the state's pervasive challenge of rural medicine.

We're providing continuing education courses to help train Missouri's emergency responders, and 4-H programs for young people.

Our Art on the Move photo exhibit was featured at this year's state fair.

This past May, Marshall and I announced two new initiatives to further our engagement and extension efforts:

the All Things Missouri website and the Impact website.

The combination of these websites and our Engagement Council helps us reach more people and provide meaningful data and resources where they are needed most.

For example, Extension recently hosted a workshop in Callaway County to help mid-Missouri farmers deal with the current drought.

Here's a short video from Rick Lindemann of Callaway County to tell you more about that.

[Video of Rick]

Thank you, Rick.

Rick highlights the most important goal of our engagement and extension:

Producing results that lead to real benefits.

And we plan to do even more of this moving forward.

In 2019, we will open the MU Office of Extension and Engagement.

This office challenges the way we think about and foster deeper outreach.

And it highlights our effort to connect the full breadth of the university's resources and knowledge to the people across the state.

Marshall is also restructuring our offices to focus each county's Extension team around three critical issues:

education, the economy and healthcare.

Missourians have told us loud and clear that these are the issues they care about the most.

And because Marshall was able to meet with so many people during his statewide tour, we are building better connections between the county offices and MU's talent in these critical areas.

In addition to the high-tech, high-touch efforts that bring our agriculture programs to farmers and ranchers, we're re-envisioning how our health groups can improve the lives of Missourians.

For example, we've started a campus-wide initiative to facilitate MU Health Care resources that can help Missouri confront its widespread opioid crisis and mitigate the detrimental effects this crisis has on families and communities.

We're confident this collaborative approach will increase positive health outcomes.

All of this work is focused on better understanding the specific challenges facing Missouri communities and finding more effective ways to get them the resources they need.

And our efforts are being recognized.

We're seeing an increased level of confidence from legislators and Governor Parson as evidenced by the reversal of proposed cuts to our university's core funding.

I'm grateful for this display of support from our state's leaders, and I know the work we're doing here will continue to grow that confidence — both in Jefferson City and with citizens across Missouri.

Last week, I attended the state fair, and I heard stories from people all over Missouri that demonstrated their renewed faith in Mizzou.

I've said since I arrived here last August that we are the University FOR Missouri.

We are an institution where people meet possibilities,

where those possibilities create a better quality of life for all citizens,

and where our commitment to the state and its people — through educational excellence, life-changing discoveries, and impactful engagement and extension — is a commitment to the future.

I'm so proud to lead such a great university, and I want to thank you again for everything you do to move Mizzou forward.

I hope you'll join me at an ice cream social that will immediately follow our final video — we'll be featuring our Mizzou Made Buck's Ice Cream.

There's no better way to end an event in the middle of August in Missouri than with a bowl of ice cream.

Now, I'd like to invite Kelsie Wilkins to take us into our last segment.