

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

May 5, 2016

Dear student leaders,

As the end of the spring semester approaches, I want to take the opportunity to sincerely thank you for your leadership this year. MSU's senior administrators and I are especially grateful for your support of the MSU Police Department's new Inclusion and Anti-Bias Unit, your participation in the development of the new inclusion e-learning module that will launch this fall, your continued support to educate the campus on relationship violence and sexual misconduct, and your advocacy to make MSU better. Your involvement in these initiatives and others is instrumental in helping MSU achieve its goal of inclusive excellence.

I also would like to share with you some of the projects planned for the summer. When you return to campus this fall, look for the following developments:

- **Updated student group rooms:** Students provided input on paint colors and flooring samples this semester, and renovations to student group spaces in the residence halls will be completed this summer. The renovations will create more useful and welcoming spaces for student groups.
- **All-gender restroom:** An all-gender restroom is being installed on the garden level of the Student Services building. Work will begin this summer.
- **Expanded flexible housing options:** Residential and Hospitality Services (RHS) will be bringing together a committee to explore expanding flexible housing for fall 2017 (rooms for 2016 have already been reserved). Currently, flex housing is offered in University Village, Spartan Village, West McDonel, and North Wonders. RHS also plans increased promotion to raise awareness about this housing option.
- **Student preferred names:** Student preferred names have been implemented in several university systems, including Desire2Learn (D2L). Work to update other systems, applications, and communications used by colleges and units throughout campus will continue, with a goal of full implementation by fall 2017.



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In closing, I would like to say a few words about our efforts to address sexual violence, which remains a concern at MSU and on all college campuses. As student leaders, you have helped to raise awareness about sexual violence and provide input as we continue to enhance MSU's education, prevention, response, and support programs. In addition to the developments noted above, the following projects are planned for the summer as we continue to advance our efforts in this area:

- **New Title IX website:** Work is already underway to develop a new website that will serve as the hub for all information relating to relationship violence and sexual misconduct at MSU. The website will centralize information across all departments/units and provide links to important community and national resources.
- **Publication of annual report:** MSU's annual report on relationship violence and sexual misconduct for the 2015–16 academic year will be available July 1, 2016. The report, which will summarize reports, investigations, outcomes, education programs, and resources, will be hosted on the OIE website (www.oie.msu.edu) until the new Title IX website (www.titleix.msu.edu) is completed.
- **New online education programs:** In support of the annual training requirement for students, MSU will offer a new suite of online education programs on relationship violence and sexual misconduct. This will include a full-length online program for first-year undergraduate students, a new program for graduate students, as well as annual refresher courses for sophomores, juniors, and seniors.

Thank you again for your leadership. I look forward to continuing to work with you in the fall.

Have a pleasant and healthy summer.

Sincerely,



Lou Anna K. Simon
President
Michigan State University