

## President's Communiqué

Dr. Ken Kitts

February 28, 2023

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**Colleagues:** I hope this note finds you well. We are approaching the midway point for this spring semester, and with that in mind I would like to take this opportunity to share important updates from the University of North Alabama.

**State Budgetary Process:** The 2023 legislative session is scheduled to begin on Tuesday, March 7. That means our first official look at the state portion of our budget for FY24 should come around that same date when Governor Ivey delivers her annual address. Please keep in mind that any reference to the "Governor's budget" actually refers to a set of recommendations, albeit very important ones, that kick off the long budgetary process in Montgomery. We have made repeated contact with Governor Ivey and other key executive branch officials to renew our Project 208 call for an equity adjustment for UNA (i.e., above and beyond the normal increase most institutions will receive with tax revenues coming in at a good pace). Our core request is for an increase of \$10.5 million in recurring dollars to move our University from the bottom of the list in per-student funding and bring us alongside at least some peer schools of similar size, scope, and mission. The next stop for the budget once the Governor releases it will be the Finance and Taxation Education Committee of the Alabama Senate, chaired by Senator Arthur Orr of Decatur with local Senator Tim Melson also serving as a senior member of that panel.

**Enrollment:** Spring headcount stands at 9,665 with additional registrations yet to come before census date on March 24. That places us up 21% in the T0 Tc 0 Tw 12.87 0 Td()Tj-0.001 Tc -0.008 Tw 0.228 0 Td(in)2.3 (-)-11.3 (E)8.8 (n)2.2 (r

**Federal Outreach:** We received good news last week that Congressman Robert Aderholt has accepted our invitation to visit campus and serve as our VIP “switch flipper” for the Light the Fountain celebration on March 16. First elected to Congress in 1996, Rep. Aderholt is a senior member of the powerful House Committee on Appropriations and was recently appointed to chair the Labor, Health and Human Services & Education Subcommittee that is responsible for appropriating non-defense dollars in the federal budget. With the redistricting that occurred in Alabama last year, our campus has moved into his 4<sup>th</sup> congressional district. We are the only four-year university in that sprawling and rural district. The boundaries run from the western half

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