

## President's Communique

Dr. Ken Kitts

May 8, 2024

---

**Colleagues:** Please see below for important updates from the University of North Alabama.

**Legislative Session:** The Alabama House and Senate have now completed work on the education budget for FY 25, inclusive of the annual appropriations for UNA and all other public universities in the state. We entered those deliberations in good shape with a recommended funding increase of 8.87% courtesy of the Governor's budget that was released at the start of the session. I am pleased to report that both chambers concurred in that recommendation. Our percentage increase is the second highest of any university in Alabama and continues the progress we have been making in closing the funding gap that separates us from our peers. The only step that remains in this process is for the Governor

**Provost:** Dr. Brien Smith will arrive on campus next week to begin work as our new Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs. Brien will use the summer months to meet people, understand our campus culture, and learn about our programs. I have already been in touch with him about transitional matters, and his introduction to UNA is being further facilitated by Dr. Katie Kinney (interim Provost for AY 2023-24), Ms. Minnette Ellis (chair of the Provost Search Advisory Committee), the Provost's direct reports on the Council of Academic Deans (COAD), and staff in the Office of Academic Affairs. While Provost Smith will be able to meet many faculty and staff over the next few months, we will still make good on our commitment to provide time for all of campus to welcome Brien and his wife, Sherri, to UNA at the beginning of the fall semester.

**Enrollment:** The outlook for our upcoming summer terms is encouraging with increases projected in both headcount (+3%) and credit hour production (+5%) over the previous year. The projection for the upcoming fall semester is also encouraging. Preregistration of upper division students continues even as we get ready to welcome new students to campus through our summer SOAR orientation program. If current indicators hold, we are on track to reach new enrollment milestones