From: Porter, John R. <jporter@lindenwood.edu>

Sent: Friday, February 25, 2022 9:35 AM **Subject:** Friday Message from the President

Colleagues and friends,

Happy Friday! The weather has played havoc over the last few weeks; however, we have excelled at pivoting and going virtual for classes. My thanks for being flexible and still making sure we're providing a great experience for our students.

Athletics Transition to DI

Wednesday we made a big announcement for the University. Our transition from Division II to Division I athletics is a great step forward. It aligns 100% with our strategic plan outcomes and is another way for us to attain our goals. Transitioning to DI is only part of our journey to reach 12,000 students. The articles written, and radio and tv broadcasts are sharing great things about Lindenwood!

MLK Day / CDI Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

On Tuesday, we recognized Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and his tremendous impact on our country and our lives. We acknowledged 5 folks with the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Award—which recognizes those who exemplify qualities of Dr. King. In addition, Emily Pitts and I cut the ribbon for the new CDI. This an outstanding place for the Lindenwood community to come together. If you have not seen the space in Spellmann, check it out.

Retention Focus

Although we have to reschedule the retention retreat, I cannot emphasize enough how important it is for us to focus on engaging with students, understanding their needs, and encouraging them to continue their educational

journey. We all share this responsibility, no matter our role. Remember - Every **Student Counts!**

I wish you the best as you finish out the week. Have a great weekend.

Sincerely,

John

JOHN R. PORTER Ed.D.

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