



KIM REYNOLDS  
GOVERNOR

**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

ADAM GREGG  
LT GOVERNOR

August 17, 2018

Dear President Richards,

I highly value Iowa's public universities and am a proud graduate of one of them. I know you feel the same way, and I know the Board of Regents has been working hard to improve the quality of Iowa's universities while maintaining affordability. Even with the rising cost of education, tuition and fees at Iowa's public universities are lower (and sometimes significantly lower) than their peers.

But I think we can and should do more. We need to create predictability for Iowa families. And we need to keep the cost of higher education at a level that is affordable for those same families while also making sure our universities continue to be world class.

That means maintaining robust public funding, but we also should explore ways to more effectively use the vast resources that exist on our campuses. I encourage you and your colleagues on the Board of Regents to survey what other universities around the nation are doing to leverage their assets—tangible and intangible—to further invest in higher education. Whether that's exploring new ways to use an underutilized physical asset or whether it's changing our statutes or rules to give our universities more flexibility to convert their research into commerce, I am confident that these opportunities exist. And I further believe that our universities have the talent and expertise to identify them.

So please encourage everyone to think outside the box. Once you have had time to consider and identify any opportunities, I'd welcome the opportunity to hear from you.

Thank you for your leadership and keeping our universities moving forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kim Reynolds".

Kim Reynolds  
Governor of Iowa