

Email from President James Herbert
January 9, 2018

Office of the President



Dear UNE Community,

I hope you had a peaceful holiday break. As another year full of promise dawns at UNE, I write to thank you for all you did for the University in 2017, and to extend my warmest wishes that you have a happy, healthy, and productive 2018.

As you know, last year ended on a high note for us when we received word of our successful reaccreditation review from [NEASC](#). Thank you to everyone who made our self-study and site visits successful, and indeed to our entire community for making UNE such a vibrant and successful institution.

Turning our attention to 2018, a key priority for us will be our strategic planning process. Channeling our community's collective wisdom and creativity to maximize its impact, we will shape the course of UNE's destiny for years to come. I have created a strategic planning coordinating committee, led by Vice President Ellen Beaulieu, which is currently working to establish a process through which to gather your input. Please visit the new [strategic planning website](#) for regular updates on the process, and for ways in which you can contribute. I hope you will participate in this important work.

This spring, we expect to fill three key leadership positions: the provost, and the deans of the College of Pharmacy and of the Westbrook College of Health Professions. We are conducting second interviews with finalists for the provost position now, and will be inviting candidates to campus for additional interviews and presentations to the faculty and professional staff. We've intentionally timed the dean searches to lag a bit behind, so the new provost can have input into them. Please stay tuned for additional information.

On the Biddeford Campus, I am pleased to announce that we expect to receive our certificates of occupancy for the new Ripich Commons in the next couple of weeks! Next, we will spend the spring transforming the area between the building and river, creating a stunningly beautiful setting for the community to celebrate our waterfront location.

Of course, these are just a few of the exciting developments in store on the near horizon. Thank you for your dedication to UNE. Together, we will continue to shape this institution we cherish into the most successful, impactful, resilient version of itself it can be.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James", is located at the bottom left of the email.