Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the start of the fall semester! I hope that summer was both a refresh and rejuvenation time for you. I would like to express my gratitude to our community, colleagues, and students for their resilience and dedication to advancing our mission this past academic year.

During the past two years, we have rededicated ourselves to the central role of higher education as a means of improving the human condition. Our endeavors have been focused on addressing emerging challenges, such as the pandemic, social justice, and climate change. We have also been committed to fostering an inclusive and equitable learning environment for all students.

The Strategic Plan, which is the foundation of our work, is intended to guide our efforts over the next five years. It outlines our mission, vision, and values and provides a framework for our collective work. The Plan is a living document that will evolve as we learn from our experiences and adapt to changing circumstances.

Throughout the planning process, we engaged with hundreds of stakeholders through workshops, focus groups, and surveys to ensure that the Plan reflects our shared priorities and aspirations. The Plan contains five strategic priorities, each of which is supported by specific initiatives and actions.

One of the key priorities outlined in the Plan is to improve the educational experience and outcomes of our students. We have already made significant progress in this area, including the introduction of new courses, the expansion of online learning options, and the development of new academic programs.

We are also focusing on enhancing our faculty and staff development, with a particular emphasis on supporting diversity, equity, and inclusion. We have established new programs and initiatives to provide support for faculty and staff members who are working to address these important issues.

In addition, we are working to strengthen our relationships with our alumni and community partners. We have established new partnerships and initiatives to increase engagement and support for our students.

The Strategic Plan is a roadmap for our collective work over the next five years. It is a testament to the dedication and commitment of our community. I encourage all of you to take a moment to review the Plan and to reflect on how you can contribute to our shared goals.

Warm regards,

Eileen Chao, President and CEO