Office of the Provost

TENNESSEE TECH

Dear Campus Community,

I hope everyone is off to a great start to the academic year. As I have had the opportunity to spend a day with each college and with the library, I have been moved by just how deeply committed our faculty, staff, and administration are to our students. That commitment is one of the things that makes Tennessee Tech such a special place.

Earlier this month, I had the opportunity to meet with our new faculty, and I left that meeting confident that our future is incredibly bright. Picture shown below.



At that meeting, I shared two four-letter words with the group that I want to revisit: *time* and *grit*. After nearly three decades in higher education, I have come to appreciate the importance of these two words.

Time is the one asset we all share, and the one we are constantly spending. Unlike money, time cannot be earned back once it is gone. It is a depreciating asset. Every day that passes is one less day we have remaining.

The important question, then, is not whether we are spending time. We all are. The question is whether we are investing it wisely.

In my experience, and consistent with much of what I have read, I have found *grit* to be an important characteristic of successful individuals. Grit is the determination to keep moving forward when things become difficult, to remain disciplined when the path is challenging, and to stay committed when the results are not clear.

As I mentioned during the university welcome a couple of weeks ago, everyone in that room understands the importance of discipline and knows how challenging it can be to push through difficult circumstances.

Likewise, I believe that same grit, that sheer determination to keep moving forward even when things are tough, lives within each of you, and today you are part of this amazing institution as a faculty member, a member of a very rare group of individuals when you look at the entire population.