



**TWENTY-THIRD ANNUAL MEETING
ASSOCIATION OF DEANS AND DIRECTORS
Academic year 2008-2009**

**Trust in the Balance:
Organizations Built on Results,
Integrity and Concern**

November, 2008

Dear AD&D Colleagues:

It is time to make plans to meet for the twenty-third meeting of the Association of Deans and Directors of University Colleges and Undergraduate Studies. I am happy to invite you to Savannah, Georgia, on March 4-7, 2009.

The theme of this year's meeting is "**Trust in the Balance: Organizations Built on Results, Integrity and Concern.**" I think it fits well amid the precarious political, social, and economic climate we are all experiencing. As the Dow plummets, political scandals dominate the headlines, and families face precipitous increases in tuition and fees, universities are under tremendous scrutiny from parents, students, and the public. Citizens demand accountability. How can we demonstrate that we are using public funds well? Are universities living up to their mission of promoting student success? What is a university's role in educating citizens so that future generations can avoid these messes? We will have opportunity to think about and discuss these issues amid many other topics related to student success.

I have been a member of this organization since 2003, and I have attended every conference since then. The meetings are in a roundtable format (no projectors allowed!); we appoint facilitators to keep each discussion moving and ensure that everyone has a chance to contribute. We learn from one another about what works, what doesn't work, what's new, and what's on the horizon. The environment is supportive, so anyone can float a new idea and get instant, expert feedback. My University has already benefited from what I have learned at previous conferences about learning communities, fundraising ideas, and career advancement in advising.

Savannah is a charming destination near the Georgia coast. Our hotel, the Mulberry Inn, is the perfect size for our conference, and we will have the run of the house. Comfortable meeting rooms and gathering spaces will provide a friendly atmosphere for meeting, sharing ideas, and socializing. It is on the Savannah River in the heart of the historic district, centrally located and convenient to Savannah's City Market, River Street, museums, and other cultural sites. We are arranging for a special dinner and additional outings that capture the city's special charm. You can also venture out on your own walking tour of Savannah's magnificent architecture and many quaint squares, or take a moonlight carriage ride. About 20 minutes from the historic district, Tybee Island offers beaches, shrimp boats, restaurants, nightlife, dolphin tours, kayak tours, deep-sea fishing excursions, and more. If you want to extend your stay, I hear the golf courses at nearby Hilton Head are world-class.

I am looking forward to learning what everyone has been doing over the past year, reconnecting with friends and meeting new ones. Please join us in March for a wonderful, relaxing rendezvous in the city of Savannah!

Sincerely,

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