

Dear Campus Community:

I just recently completed my annual meeting with the Chancellor of the Minnesota State system. This is the annual evaluation every President has each year at this time and last week, I was able to meet with him in person.

It is a time for Presidents to look back on the year, to report on goals met (or not yet met), data trends, strategic planning, and the overall health and well-being of our college or university. It is also a time of reflection, not only on our own performance as leaders, but also on the strengths and challenges faced by our faculty and staff to keep the college or university moving forward and meeting its mission.

The Chancellor is happy with our direction and efforts, and congratulates all of you on your great work. I was pleased to report that the LSC community successfully pulled through the challenges of last year with great determination and grit, as well as compassion and dedication to our mission and our students. I recognized that it was not easy, though we at times made it look somewhat easy, didn't we? We overcame obstacles that many students and folks on the outside did not see. We all faced worries about our own health, our family situations, and our safety. And still, all of us pushed through and stayed focused on our students.

Each of you helped get us to the other side of the worst of the COVID pandemic. You stepped up to make changes needed to move with the ever changing needs of students experiencing so many challenges. And now, you are throwing your newfound strengths into our Equity 2030 work. With that same determination and grit and dedication and compassion, you are focused on equity for all and are working to make LSC a place where everyone ... students, faculty, staff ... can succeed.

Is this work easy? Not at all. But I believe that we will be leaders in this work. Nothing can stop us now:

"See a fence? Jump it." – Ada Limón

**The Mountain Lion
BY ADA LIMÓN**

**I watched the video clip over and over,
night vision cameras flickering her eyes
an unholy green, the way she looked
the six-foot fence up and down
like it was nothing but a speed bump,
and cleared the man-made border
in one impressive leap. A glance
over the shoulder, an annoyance,
an "as if you could keep me out, or
keep me in." I don't know what it
was that made me press replay and
replay. It wasn't fear, though I'd be
terrified if I was face to face with
her, or heard her prowling in the night,
it was just that I don't think I've
ever made anything look so easy. Never**

**looked behind me and grinned or
grimaced because nothing could stop
me. I like the idea of it though, felt
like a dream you could will into being:
See a fence? Jump it.**

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Be well, be safe, find time to take some time.

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