I am going to start out this message with a profound quote:

"Well," said Pooh, "what I like best," and then he had to stop and think. Because although Eating Honey was a very good thing to do, there was a moment just before you began to eat it which was better than when you were, but he didn't know what it was called.

A. A. Milne

Dear Pooh: that rich and lovely moment before you actually eat the honey is called "anticipation."

At this moment, and for the rest of this week, I am experiencing rich and lovely anticipation for the new academic year. And from conversations I have had recently around the campus, I know you are all very busy and also savoring the anticipation for the start of Fall 2024 as well.

Next week, our faculty and seasonal staff return and everything begins to gear up to



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full speed ahead. If you want to heighten your anticipation and need an energy boost, just hang out for a while in the student life or student services areas. Wow! Or follow our facilities staff as they prepare the buildings and grounds for the start of the new school year. They are polishing LSC like a beautiful jewel. Amazing! You might also check out our IT department's many projects. These folks even work on weekends to keep us humming. Outstanding!

Next week, we have an Olympics-themed all employee meeting at which you will enjoy breakfast, conversations, and fellowship. We will have a rousing welcome arranged by our social committee, a beloved speaker, faculty break-out sessions, and news you can use (updates and tidbits) for the coming year. I anticipate (see what I did there?) that each of you will find many gold medal options.

Want to get a long-jump on some of the new changes around the main campus? Take a look at the Commons. Check out the Library. Catch a peek at the T-building expansion. Notice the new signage and big parking lot improvements. Enjoy the cleaned-up bee and butterfly gardens. Revel in the reopening of the café. That's a latte!

So, get on your mark, get set...