Norfolk State University (NSU) is a place where dreams are created, nurtured and brought to life. “For all those striving to succeed”—whether as students, faculty, staff, or as alumni—NSU is the crucible of opportunity, determination, and success. This is the place where for nearly 80 years, we have been forging onward through the good times and bad.

Today, Norfolk State University is at a tipping point. Not since NSU’s inception in 1935 has the need for demonstrating evidence of progress and sustainability been so great. We are resilient; and Spartans always rise to the occasion to accept a challenge. Norfolk State University must forge onward as a quality institution of higher learning. We must forge through the many challenges and opportunities before us and more importantly, we must be prepared and willing to change.

Over the next 6 to 12 months, I intend to concentrate our efforts on what I believe are five (5) strategic objectives to move Norfolk State University onward. We must:

1. Ensure the financial integrity of the institution by producing complete and audited financial statements;
2. Ensure the fiscal stability of the institution through a balanced budget, financial monitoring system and aggressive fundraising efforts;
3. Eliminate all items of concern identified by the regional accreditor, SACSCOC;
4. Increase campus safety efforts to include safety education and sexual assault prevention. At Norfolk State University—there is zero-tolerance for sexual misconduct of any kind; and
5. Implement a consistent and responsive governmental outreach effort.

These objectives are not exclusive; they do not stand alone. Everything we do at NSU must be student-centered and geared toward the upward trajectory of the institution.

The efforts in place 10 years ago will not suffice today nor will they suffice 10 years from now. Because of this:

• We must and will revamp our general education programs to provide our students with increased science and technology literacy.
• Academic programs that are not in demand or fail to demonstrate sustainability will be eliminated.
• Emphasis will be placed on providing our students with the best teacher—scholars; those who are terminally-degreed and focused on the success of our students.
• Employees of the university will be evaluated based on their performance and held accountable for their action or inaction.
• Customer service levels will be monitored and assessed on a regular basis.
• We will emphasize and cultivate a culture of philanthropy at all levels of the university.
• Faculty, staff, students and friends of NSU will be asked to demonstrate their love and support by giving back.

We will continue to work smarter—not harder, to ensure the success of our students and the institution. As we reach the 80th year of our existence, we must forge onward toward another 80 years. We must adapt and work diligently to secure the future of this fine institution.

I ask you for your support and understanding.

Norfolk State University will continue to persist as a vibrant, growing and financially-stable institution. As mentioned earlier, we are looking for a few good women and men to commit themselves to this very important purpose. I am committed to this purpose and ask that you join me so that we can continue to Behold the Green and Gold!

Remember, where your heart is, there will your treasure be also. May God bless you and may God bless Norfolk State University.