



MURRAY STATE UNIVERSITY
Office of the President

September 30, 2024

Chair Owens and Members of the Board of Regents:

First, I want to thank you, and our administration, faculty, staff, students, alumni and friends for all that they do for Murray State University (MSU). MSU is a special place and has been successful for over 100 years because of these dedicated groups and individuals.

Since August 2018, I have had the privilege of serving my Alma Mater as President. There is no greater honor in higher education and this service has been the capstone of my professional career.

During recent months, as we celebrated a record Freshman class and other recruiting and retention successes, our centennial year, the pending construction of a new School of Nursing and Health Professions building, funding for a new Veterinary Sciences building and Learning Commons/Residence Hall, new funding for our Program of Distinction – Cybersecurity and Network Management – the acquisition of Station 74 to benefit our students, legislative accomplishments, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges reaffirmation process, a successful \$100 million capital campaign that is well on its way to completion and many other important renovations and improvements to our campus, operations and academic enhancements; Karen and I have discussed our future plans.

I walked onto this campus 43 years ago this fall as a freshman student. My experiences here opened many doors, provided me a world-class education and numerous leadership opportunities, established a path for my career, assisted me in serving this region and Kentucky as a State Senator and in other appointed governmental roles and most importantly, this is where I met Karen.

As I have stated many times, no one does these jobs alone. Karen is an alumna and cares deeply about this University and has worked hard to advance it.

Furthermore, the work and accomplishments of the past several years could not have been achieved without a great team. We are very fortunate to have outstanding administrators, faculty, staff, students, Board members, alumni and friends who ensure that we continue to advance this great University.

The past several years have been extremely busy in every area of the University. I have traveled thousands of miles to Frankfort, around this state, country and world advancing our University. And, while this position has been incredibly rewarding, one thing we learned in recent years is that life is very short. It is now time for us to focus on the next chapter of our lives, spend more time with our family and friends and travel to places we have never been.

We are Racers.

murraystate.edu

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Equal education and employment opportunities M/F/D, AA employer. Murray State University supports a clean and healthy campus. Please refrain from personal tobacco use.

I am extremely proud of our combined accomplishments as we focused our efforts on recruiting, retention, academic excellence, access and affordability, focusing on new and enhanced academic programs and related new facilities to address our growth, campus improvements, addressing deferred maintenance, financial stability, ensuring a safe and healthy campus during the pandemic, development of a new Strategic Plan, addressing legislative matters, enhancing Racer Athletics, among other items.

My goal when I accepted this position was to leave the University better and stronger and more financially secure than we found it and to enhance the campus and strengthen academics – we have accomplished this goal.

There is still much work to do, *there will always be much work to do*, but we have a better foundation today. We have a renewed focus and clearer path forward. A foundation and path which will prepare us for our second century. And, again, all of this was accomplished with a great team and I am very thankful for this group.

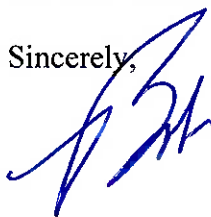
Murray State University is truly a special place and as our Alma Mater states, *the finest place we know*, and as I have stated many times, *our best days are ahead of us*. I am very grateful to the Murray State University Foundation, Inc. Board of Trustees, the Alumni Association Board of Governors, thousands of alumni and friends, faculty, staff and especially our students, who have provided support to me and most importantly, Murray State University.

Finally, I am very appreciative of the Board of Regents, their vision for MSU, the support which they have provided and the excellent working relationship with our current and former members. I have served with six chairs: Leon Owens, Dr. Don Tharpe, Eric Crigler, Jerry Rhoads, Dan Kemp and Susan Guess and 26 different Regents during my tenure. I am very grateful to each of these talented and dedicated individuals for their support, kindness and vision for our future.

I will retire from my current position on June 30, 2025, and will continue my employment in a transition and advisory role through October 31, 2025, and I plan to work as hard on my last day in this office as I did my first day.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve this great University as the 14th President and I look forward to assisting the Board of Regents and the next president during a future transition.

Sincerely,



Bob Jackson, President