



Monthly Presidential Update to the Community

January 23, 2019



DPT Commencement Ceremony January 20, 2019

Welcome, 2019!

While January often ushers in familiar refrains of a new year full of promise and excitement, I can say with confidence that 2019 stands to be a monumental year for Arcadia. The University is poised to embark on several high-impact initiatives, including a new strategic plan that will shape the next chapter in Arcadia's history. On a personal note, my first nine months in office have been among the most fulfilling in my career in higher education, and I very much look forward to a productive and collaborative spring semester.

Community Building

The **Arcadia UKnighted** initiative has sparked collaborative opportunities for our community, with more than 200 alumni, faculty, staff, and students participating.

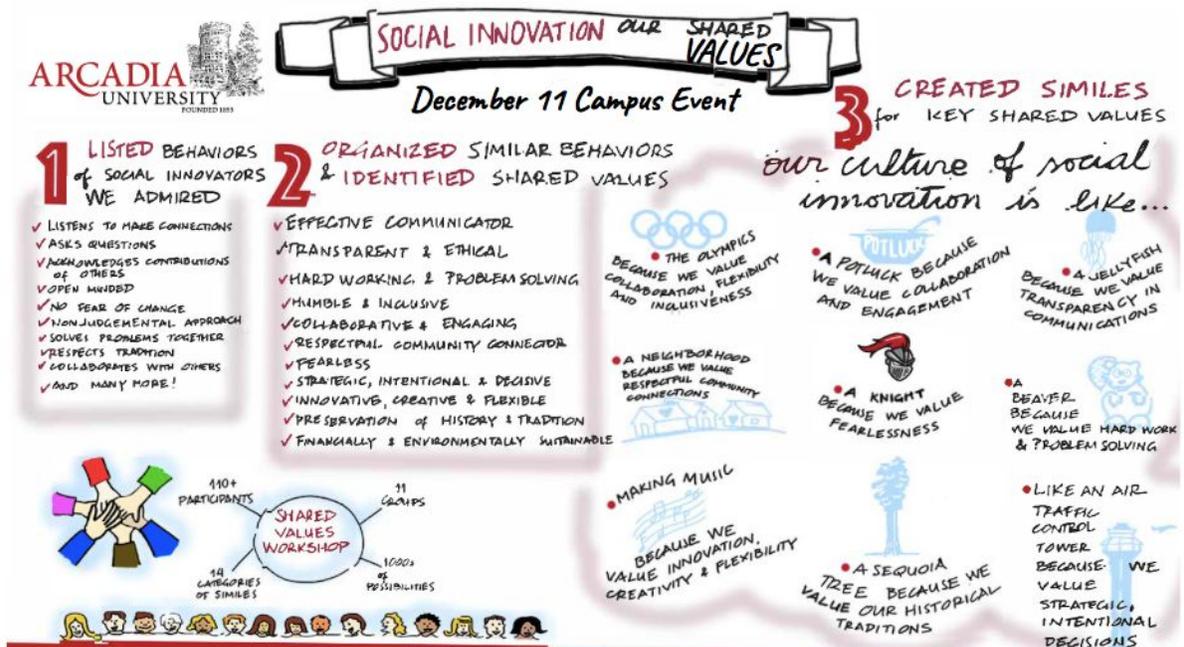
December 11, 2018 - UKnighted Community

Our community workshop on Dec. 11 closed the year's UKnighted collaborations. The Budget Task Force presented on the financial literacy training program and on its final recommendations, Shared Governance provided an update on their work and goals for development of a pilot model of University-wide shared governance, and the Aspirational Committee delivered a draft of a vision statement for community feedback. The community also explored, as a point directly from the work of the Aspirational Committee, the concept of social innovation.

January 15, 2019 - Faculty Senate University-wide meeting

Faculty and staff colleagues welcomed 2019 as a community at a University-wide Faculty Senate meeting on Jan 15. Attendees heard updates on the Strategic Planning process, high-impact projects, and social innovation, work which will help to set the path moving forward.

Rebecca Kohn, Eric Nelson, Laura Baldwin, and faculty members joined me in updating the community on our progress with unit reviews, search committees, and committee work, including the Shared Governance Committee, which will explore structures of a University-wide Senate.



This graphic depicts the information gathered from the Dec. 11 community working session on social innovation.

Freedom of Expression Task Force

In November, a Freedom of Expression Task Force was formed, led by Dean of Students Andrew Goretsky and comprised of faculty, staff, and students, to address free speech and expression on campus and within the Arcadia community. The Task Force has reviewed higher education open expression examples from colleges and universities around the country, read the book *Free Speech on Campus*, and is now working to draft principles for my review. Shortly after, the principles will be shared with the University community for input and feedback. The

Task Force is hosting an Arcadia UKnighted event on Feb. 22. Sigal Ben-Porath, professor of Education, Philosophy, and Political Science at the University of Pennsylvania and author of *Free Speech on Campus*, will be present at this event.

Fundraising To Date

Overall development efforts finished the calendar year with fundraising totals tracking ahead of this same point in time last year. Gifts received as of Jan. 13 total \$1,411,578 with an additional \$362,500 in pledges committed for FY2019.

	As of 1/13/2018	As of 1/13/2019
(C) -- Capital Funds	\$18,102	\$101,250
(C) -- Endowment Funds	\$451,900	\$438,250
(S) -- Restricted Annual	\$478,739	\$563,901
(A) -- Unrestricted Annual	<u>\$273,809</u>	<u>\$308,177</u>
TOTAL	\$1,222,550	\$1,411,578

Recruitment Update

The undergraduate application funnel remains strong, as first-year applications and offers of admission run 10-12 percent ahead of last year. Transfer applications are running slightly behind, but offers of admission are equal to last year. The challenge continues to be yield, as competition for the smaller number of high school graduates and transfers continues, particularly in the Northeast. Graduate programs show traditional strengths, with active yield efforts in place to address the challenges beginning to show from intense competition.

Review of Enrollment Management and Academic Affairs Units

Arcadia's partnership with Credo will guide us in our external review of Enrollment Management, Student Success, and Academic Affairs. The work across campus has begun and will address such questions as:

- What are the experiences that have the most significant impact on student success?
- How do we ensure campus is structured most effectively and efficiently to deliver those experiences to all students?
- What makes the Arcadia experience distinctive (or what should make it distinctive)?
- How do we use this information to attract and enroll more students?

Stakeholders across campus will be invited for interviews:

- January / February - Student Success
- February / April - Enrollment and Financial Aid
- March / May - Academic program efficiency

The findings of each of these assessments will be shared throughout the process and events will be scheduled and communicated shortly.

Dashboards and Key Performance Indicators

Leadership is working with the Office of Institutional Research to produce a dashboard that will provide point-in-time data to make informed decisions. The KPIs from the President and University Goals will drive the project and its format to ensure it is user-friendly yet informative. We plan to have this project underway by March to share with committees as they do their work, and present at the Board meeting in May.

Leadership Search Updates

The search committee for the **Vice President for Development and Alumni Relations** met before winter break to review and post the job description. Over the past few weeks, Diversified Search received several resumes from candidates that they consider to be a strong fit for Arcadia, and they will be vetting candidates. The committee will meet at the end of February to review top candidates.

The search for our next chief academic officer notes a change of title to **Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs**. The search is well underway, and the position is posted on a variety of higher education sites; Diversified Search is recruiting and interacting with potential candidates. The next committee meeting is scheduled for the beginning of February and will be the first level of resume review.

Eric Nelson is leading the search committee for the permanent **Chief Information Officer** and has invited top candidates to meet with the campus community. There were more than 120 applications; on-campus interviews began this week. We hope to have a candidate selected by March. The search for the **Director of Public Safety** will begin by late February.

As the excitement of the spring semester begins to permeate throughout the University's global community, I cannot help but reflect upon my recent visits to Arcadia's London and Scotland centers. In doing so, I am reminded of our students and alumni, and in particular, of their stories of how meaningful their international experiences are. Many of our spring semester global experiences are made possible through scholarships from community members such as yourselves, and for that, we thank you.

Warm Regards,

Ajay Nair, Ph.D.
President

External Presidential Engagement

Council of Independent Colleges (CIC) 2019 Presidents Institute

Community Training and Assistance Center (CTAC) Board of Directors

Susan Ginsberg Berk '69 and Lee Berk

Dr. Julianne Mamana Boyd '66, '17H

Barry Dornfeld, Principal, CFAR, Inc.

James Korman, husband of the late Laura Fisher Korman '89, former Arcadia Trustee

Hugh Moulton, Arcadia Trustee Emeritus

Dr. David Sadoff, lecturer of Law and former executive director at the University of Pennsylvania Law School

Joseph Sun, Vice Rector at Forman Christian College, Lahore, Pakistan

Dr. MaryAnn Baenninger, president, Drew University, NJ

Interview: Shashi Wilson-Joshi, BBC Asian Network - youth discussion programme broadcasting from London.