



A message from Principal Wisdom Tettey to the UTSC community

June 29, 2022

Dear colleagues:

As we come to the end of yet another challenging academic year, I want to thank you most sincerely for the many sacrifices you have made, individually and collectively, to sustain our mission. Without your unflinching commitment to that mission, under the most trying circumstances, and your demonstration of the core values that define us as a campus, we would not have been able to support the valuable work of which we are all proud.

I know many, if not all of you, have endured significant personal and professional disruptions, and even loss, and I am grateful for the support and care that you have extended to one another in moments when we all needed someone to be there for us. It is those qualities of a truly caring community that makes UTSC so special, a place where we live our values of inspiring inclusive excellence.

Notwithstanding the constraints of the current environment that we have been compelled to work in, we accomplished many remarkable things together.

Your engagement in an extensive, participatory, and meaningful curriculum review, through the Curriculum Review Working Circle, has provided us with a road map that will set us apart as a genuinely committed centre of inclusive teaching and learning. Your commitment to inclusion shone brightly as you helped to bring to life the Scarborough Charter, which currently has a membership of nearly 60 universities and colleges across our country working together to address anti-Black racism and to support Black inclusion.

Our built environment is expanding at record pace: the student residence stands in bold relief on our landscape; the instructional centre (IC2) is emerging out of the earth; and Indigenous House is ready to peek through the land. Thanks to your laudable engagement with the work of the Truth, Reconciliation, and Indigenous Initiatives Advisory Committee's Sub-Committee on Indigenous Place-making, we are on the cusp of renaming the MW building and other spaces on campus.

Your efforts have led to support from the Government of Ontario and others, which will make real the impactful vision that UTSC and its tri-campus and community partners have for the Scarborough Academy of Medicine and Integrated Health. Many in our broader community share your excitement about the transformational outcomes for health equity and wellbeing that lie in store for the Eastern GTA and the world beyond as a result of SAMIH.

We made significant strides in advancing our commitment to the health and wellbeing of our own internal community, including enhancing supports and facilitating access to available resources through the launch of the Healthy Campus initiative's website. I can assure you that campus leaders and I have undertaken to roll out various concrete measures to ensure that a

healthy learning and working environment, as outlined in Inspiring Inclusive Excellence, remains a top priority.

As we contemplate the year ahead, I hope you are able to sit back and appreciate the transformative power of your innumerable accomplishments, only a smidge of which I have touched on here.

I look forward to seeing you all in September and hopeful that we will once again experience the vitality and vibrancy of an exciting “back-to-school” environment for our campus community. There will be an opportunity to welcome new students and colleagues, to get re-acquainted with those we have not seen in a while, and mingle with our students, members of the community and alumni, during our highly anticipated maiden homecoming event later that month.

Until then, and on the eve of a well-deserved long-weekend, I wish you all a safe, restful and enjoyable summer with your loved ones. Take care and be well.

Wisdom J. Tettey, PhD, FGA
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