

# HOWARD UNIVERSITY

Office of the Provost and  
Chief Academic Officer

March 3, 2021

Dear Colleagues,

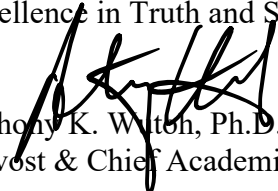
I am pleased to bring greetings on behalf of the entire Howard University Community as we celebrate International Women's Day. While this is always a poignant and noteworthy event, this year's celebration will be even more meaningful than in the past for several reasons. First, we celebrate the election and inauguration of Vice President Kamala Harris, a daughter of the Capstone, and an exemplar of the leadership, character, and commitment to service that has become a hallmark of an alum of this great institution. Vice President Harris frequently credits her education and experiences at Howard University as paving the way for her career aspirations, and the confidence to pursue her passions and a life of service. She serves as a great example for all women and men who aspire to make a difference in this world, particularly Howard University students.

Second, the COVID-19 pandemic, while challenging and crippling as a global crisis, also provided the opportunity for our courageous frontline clinicians and other frontline workers at Howard University Hospital to shine. We are grateful for their commitment, sacrifice, and service to help keep the broader community safer and healthier. We celebrate their dedication to our motto of "Truth and Service."

Third, we celebrate the establishment of the Center for Women, Gender, and Global Leadership, supported by a generous gift from Trustee Jim Murren and Mrs. Heather Hay Murren. The Center is led by Professor J. Jarpa Dawuni, who has been recognized as a Fulbright Specialist Scholar and a Carnegie African Diaspora Fellow. The Center's academic focus will include producing innovative and theoretically grounded research, and creating a data center on issues of women and gender in the United States and the global Black diaspora. The Center will provide opportunities for students through scholarships and internships. Additionally, the program will match students with high-impact women leaders, entrepreneurs, industry experts, policymakers and social justice advocates for mentorship and sponsorship opportunities.

I am grateful to Dr. Dawuni, the other members of the planning and organizing committee, and colleagues throughout the University whose commitment and hard work have ensured that the programming for this event would continue successfully. As we continue to progress through a global COVID-19 pandemic, as well as advocate for continued, meaningful societal change in the midst of the systemic racism reckoning taking place, it is critical that we continue to elevate the voices and leadership of women who are making a significant difference in our lives to address these twin pandemics. Thank you for your ongoing support and commitment.

Excellence in Truth and Service,

  
Anthony K. Winton, Ph.D., R.Ph.  
Provost & Chief Academic Officer

