



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK:  
MONDAY MUSINGS

April 21, 2014

Colleagues,

I am sure you have all heard that Dr. Jay Kenton has been appointed as the interim president for Eastern. I believe this is an excellent choice for our University.

I have worked with Jay since my arrival here five years ago and during that time I found him to be extremely supportive of our efforts on many fronts. He has provided me invaluable advice and suggestions in working with the State Board of Higher Education, legislators and other statewide leaders. I know, too, that he has worked behind the scenes on our behalf on numerous occasions.

He also has a deep appreciation for the role that Eastern has in our region and the numerous connections and ties to the communities that we serve. From his experiences in higher education, he has developed a commitment to shared governance and he understands the roles that faculty and staff provide in the governance structures.

In my conversations and meetings with him, he has always been straightforward and candid. He will bring with him many ideas and thoughts to move our University forward. At the same time, he will be open to hearing your ideas, suggestions and addressing concerns during the year and over the transition to a permanent president.

Jay, given his connections to the region as well as to statewide leaders, will also provide invaluable insights as our institutional board is formed and developed.

Jay and I have initiated our transition beginning over the weekend, and as part of this progression, we will proceed quickly with the appointment of the interim provost with the goal of having it announced this week. In addition, Jay is being inserted in our planning efforts and will give direct input for the decisions we must make regarding our fiscal sustainability. With Jay's contributions and insights, we intend to release a draft of the planning document early next week. In addition, Jay will be meeting with many of University leaders and stakeholders to build and create his work plan for the forthcoming year.

In Jay, I believe we have found the right person to lead EOU during the year ahead. He brings the knowledge, personality, leadership experience, connection to the region, and most importantly, the commitment to Eastern to ensure its viability.

As part of the initial transition, Jay will be on campus today. Should you see him, please welcome him. He, along with Chancellor Rose, will be back to campus on May 6 for his official EOU Welcome.

### **Miscellaneous**

“Visceral Reflections” is the next capstone exhibition for three graduating art majors and opens with a reception this Friday, April 25, from 6 to 8 p.m. in Nightingale Gallery. Artists Tina Miller, Carrie Nelson and Danielle Stansberry—through the mediums of ceramic, mixed media sculptures and digital prints—explore the “natural versus unnatural.” For more details, go to [www.eou.edu/news-press/senior-exhibition-visceral-reflections](http://www.eou.edu/news-press/senior-exhibition-visceral-reflections).

The 27<sup>th</sup> annual Island Magic Lu’au and Show is this Saturday, April 26. The lu’au begins at 5:30 p.m. in the Gilbert Center and the show starts at 7 in McKenzie Theatre. The lu’au will feature traditional Pacific Island delicacies prepared by student members of the Polynesian and Navigators clubs. The after-dinner show includes dance performances from Tahiti, Hawaii, New Zealand, Samoa, Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of Palau and the Republic of the Marshall Islands. For more information, including where to get your tickets, please see [www.eou.edu/news-press/27th-annual-island-magic](http://www.eou.edu/news-press/27th-annual-island-magic).

Laurie Yates, DMgt, is the featured guest for the colloquium presentation at 4 p.m. this Thursday, April 24 in Ackerman Hall, Room 210. Her discussion is titled, “Management Through a Liberal Arts Lens” and will focus on corporate responsibility, global sustainability and ethical practices that face business leaders of today and tomorrow. For more details, go to [www.eou.edu/news-press/colloquium-yates](http://www.eou.edu/news-press/colloquium-yates).

The final Ars Poetica Lecture Series of this academic year is May 1 and will feature Justin Hocking, sharing his widely acclaimed new book, “The Great Floodgates of the Wonderworld.” The reading starts at 7:30 p.m. in Pierce Library. Find out more at [www.eou.edu/news-press/ars-poetica-hocking](http://www.eou.edu/news-press/ars-poetica-hocking).

Have a terrific week and thank you for all of your support and dedication to Eastern.

Best,

Bob

Bob Davies  
President