Dear Students:

As you select courses for your next term at Towson University, it is my hope that you will challenge yourself to advance both your personal and intellectual development.

Every faculty member, staff member and administrator on this campus cares deeply about you and your success in and out of the classroom. With more than 60 undergraduate majors in addition to service learning, civic engagement, study abroad and experiential learning opportunities, there are many ways you will discover how you can immediately make a difference in your chosen field and in the world. I encourage you to schedule at least one course that will introduce you to something new or will build on one of your talents. As you plan your schedule in the short term, and your life for the long term, please focus on how you will prepare for making positive change through your work and your lives.

With a campus enrollment approaching 22,000 students, it is important that you invest in your own Towson experience by attending arts performances, athletic events, lectures and student activities. Join a student organization, and get engaged and involved in the community both on and off campus. Your future employers tell us that they are interested in your commitment to the campus, your campus involvement and community service, as well as your GPA.

Make the most of your time here in every way possible. Both you and the world you are preparing to serve will be better for it.

Sincerely,
Maravene S. Loeschke

Towson University, as the state’s comprehensive Metropolitan University, offers a broad range of undergraduate and graduate programs in the liberal arts, sciences, arts and applied professional fields that are nationally recognized for quality and value. Towson emphasizes excellence in teaching, scholarship, research and community engagement responsive to the needs of the region and the state. In addition to educating students in the specialized knowledge of defined fields, Towson’s academic programs develop students’ capacities for effective communication, critical analysis, and flexible thought, and they cultivate an awareness of both difference and commonality necessary for multifaceted work environments and for local and global citizenship and leadership. Towson’s core values reflect high standards of integrity, collaboration, and service, contributing to the sustainability and enrichment of the culture, society, economy, and environment of the state of Maryland and beyond.

The institution known today as Towson University opened its doors in 1866 in downtown Baltimore as the Maryland State Normal School—the only institution devoted exclusively to the preparation of teachers for the public schools of Maryland. The first class consisted of 11 students.

In 1915 the school moved to Towson. By 1935, it established the Bachelor of Science degree in education and changed its name to Maryland State Teachers College at Towson. In 1946 it introduced an arts and sciences program, and in 1963 the institution expanded its offerings in the arts and sciences and became Towson State College.

Towson was granted university status on July 1, 1976, in recognition of its development into a comprehensive university. In 1988 Towson State University joined the University System of Maryland. On July 1, 1997, Towson State University became Towson University, a change that reflects its evolution from a state-supported to a state-assisted institution. As of May 2012, the university has awarded 135,963 degrees. Of those, 20,968 were advanced degrees. Enrollment for the 2012 fall term was 17,988 undergraduates and 3,972 graduate students.