

January 2017

Dear Austin College Community,

As chair of the search committee for the 16<sup>th</sup> president of Austin College, I am pleased to share several updates on the search process and a request for your involvement.

### **Search Committee Membership**

The identification of the search committee membership is near completion and includes trustees Bill Douglass, Mike Foster '86, Luan Mendel '75, Wes Moffett '82 P'13, Ruth Whiteside '64 and senior trustee Rebecca Gafford '72 P'00. The student representative is Pranav Sheth '18, recently elected president of the student body, and the faculty have elected Dr. [Randi Tanglen](#) and Dr. [David Baker](#) to serve on this committee. Staff Council expects the nomination and election of a staff representative to be complete by January 31.

### **Search Firm**

We have hired [Wheless Partners](#) as the search firm to assist us in identifying and recruiting candidates for our next President. Wheless is a nationally recognized firm and will provide professional guidance throughout this process. The team from Wheless includes Mike Wheless, Dr. Bob Witt, and Lisa Marks who will be on campus February 6-7 to begin organization for the steps ahead. We invite you to learn more about Wheless Partners and their team at [www.whelesspartners.com](http://www.whelesspartners.com).

### **Your Voice**

It is critical for the success of the search process that we have the engagement and participation by all College constituents, including faculty, staff, alumni, students, trustees, and senior trustees as we collect a variety of viewpoints and develop a profile for candidate identification and evaluation. You are invited, as an initial step, to participate by sharing your perspective through an electronic survey. Early next week, you will receive a special link for survey participation. This survey was developed specifically for Austin College and all responses will be received and tabulated on an anonymous basis by Wheless Partners. Additionally, throughout the search process, if you have **specific nominations** or want to voice your personal interest in the role, you are welcome to provide those to the search firm by emailing them to [CollegePresident@WhelessPartners.com](mailto:CollegePresident@WhelessPartners.com).

### **Confidentiality; Commitment to Continued Communication**

A high degree of confidentiality is required for this search if we are to attract top candidates. It is highly possible that our future president currently holds a great job and is not formally "on the market" for a new one. We need to create an atmosphere in which these successful people will be willing to explore the opportunity of leading our great institution forward. Within the bounds of appropriate confidentiality, however, it is our intention to engage the broadest Austin College community possible and to communicate regularly and appropriately. Again, your participation in this process is critical, and we thank you in advance for your help, support, and cooperation.

### **Next Steps**

You are invited to share your thoughts for use in the search process by responding to the online survey. At any time, please do not hesitate to contact the search committee via email [presidentsearch@austincollege.edu](mailto:presidentsearch@austincollege.edu). Information will be posted as it becomes available on our website [www.austincollege.edu/presidentsearch](http://www.austincollege.edu/presidentsearch).

Sincerely,  
Scott

Scott Austin '83 | Search Committee for the 16<sup>th</sup> President

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