Dear members of the college community,

I want you to know how proud I am of the effort that each of you has put toward making Illinois a leader in education, scholarship, and engagement. Less than five years ago, we established five ambitious goals. On every count, we have made tremendous strides because so many within our college were working hard together.

Among our achievements, we have now enrolled half our veterinary student body in the ground-breaking Illinois Integrated Veterinary Professional Curriculum; we have made many administrative improvements in our support for research; we have built the nation’s most comprehensive veterinary clinical skills facility; we have created two unique programs—the Chicago Center for Veterinary Medicine and the Center for One Health Illinois; and we have surpassed our Brilliant Futures fundraising goal 18 months ahead of schedule, with a current campaign total of over $37 million.

Over the next several months we will set new goals that will become our road map for the future. The process for identifying our coming priorities will be open and inclusive, because we need the creativity and commitment of every member of our community to succeed. Visit the “Strategic Action Planning Team” website, linked from the announcements box at the right of the college intranet site, to learn about the planning process. For an overview of the current state of the college, review the dean’s 2010 budget update.

The question for us to collectively consider is: how can we capitalize on our current strengths, wisely invest our resources in a time of continuing budget constrictions, and chart an innovative course that will improve animal, human and global health and provide leadership for the veterinary profession? To contribute your ideas for the future of the college, speak with your unit's representative on the planning team or send an email to dean@vetmed.illinois.edu.

The remainder of the current academic year will bring many exciting challenges, including the first milestone examinations for second-year veterinary students and the start of our comprehensive facility retrofitting for energy savings. I thank you for your continued good work on behalf of the college, and I look forward to working with you in the years ahead.

Sincerely,

Herb

Herbert E. Whiteley, DVM, PhD
Dean, College of Veterinary Medicine
University of Illinois
2001 South Lincoln Avenue
Urbana, IL 61802
217.333.2760 tel
217.333.4628 fax