

Letter from Provost Epps

Dear Colleagues,

With the fall semester underway, I hope that you are finding your classes, research, and creative work enriching. To our new faculty, we welcome you to Temple University. We are fortunate to have you among our ranks.

These are challenging times for higher education. There is more that we wish to do than available resources allow. The changing demographics of the college applicant pool make the marketplace for students highly competitive. There is enormous pressure to keep college affordable. Perhaps most challenging of all, increasing numbers of people are questioning the fundamental benefit of higher education.

As a university, Temple has responded to these challenges as it should—carefully and thoughtfully. Our positive momentum continues in no small part because of the talent and the commitment of you, our faculty. We remain a popular destination for outstanding faculty and the eager and accomplished students who learn from you. We can and should be Temple proud.

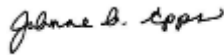
The university recruits top scholars, artists, and practitioners, and this year is no exception. Like our current colleagues, some of our new faculty come to us with grants that support them in conducting research that has a profound impact on society. The *U.S. News and World Report Best Colleges 2018* indicates that we are on the move as a top research university, improving in one year from 118 to 115 among nationally-ranked institutions.

We continue to demonstrate an unwavering devotion to access and excellence. This year, we welcomed our largest incoming class, and we celebrate a freshman retention rate of 91 percent, which indicates that students who choose Temple want to come here—and stay here.

Our graduates have also stepped up to support the university. Our alumni-giving ranking has increased from 202 to 184, and this past year, Temple raised the most money ever—\$90.6 million. This is further proof that our faculty and curriculum have prepared our alumni for real-world success.

It is a privilege to serve as your provost. This great university is a preeminent leader in education thanks to you, our faculty, who make Temple a destination for learning and honing skills that contribute to our graduates having productive and successful lives. I look forward to working with you to continue living our mission and value your engagement and ideas in helping the university carry its momentum forward. I invite you to write to me at joanne.epps@temple.edu and hope to see you around campus.

Sincerely,



JoAnne A. Epps
Executive Vice President and Provost



JoAnne A. Epps