Dear Students of The Patton College of Education,

Welcome to the 2016-17 academic year! I hope that each of you had a wonderful, relaxing summer, and I am excited that you are here at The Patton College and ready to focus on your education and future success. Remember, as our students, you are CALLED to LEAD!

This is a very special time for The Patton College. As you probably know, the renovation of McCracken Hall is nearing its final stages and will open in January 2017. If you are an upperclassman, I am confident that you will greatly appreciate the changes to the building. If you are new to The Patton College, rest assured that this renovation will optimize your educational experience at Ohio University. Be sure to attend the Dedication and Grand Opening Ceremony, January 27, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. We are making history!

As I’ve said for the last year and beyond, however, a building is not what makes us great. Our mission to improve the lives of others, our pride in Ohio University and The Patton College, and our care and concern for one another are what make us great. With that in mind, our theme for the year is: **Our Community, Our College, Our Connectedness**!

Whether you’re an undergraduate or graduate student, you are a member of **Our Community**, the OHIO community. Our programs, from hospitality to recreation, from merchandising to teacher education, will challenge you and prepare you for life after graduation. Our faculty and staff are accessible and are here to help you succeed. When you’re not in class or completing coursework, I hope that you are as involved as possible on campus. We have many academic and social organizations both inside and outside of the College that may interest you, and these are wonderful ways to meet people and establish friendships. It is also a means to incorporate Our College’s core values of advocacy and change agency, lifelong learning, leadership, and diversity into your daily life.

That is especially important in today’s society. Please keep our theme – **Our Community, Our College, and Our Connectedness** – in mind each day that you are on campus. This is an exciting and defining time of your life. We are proud you have chosen OHIO. When we live out our core values, we reaffirm **Our Connectedness** to each other and the world at large. When we speak out against injustice, we show our commitment to diversity in all forms. No one should ever be devalued or rendered voiceless or invisible based on his or her background. We are called to accept and appreciate all people regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, or sexual orientation. You have the power to mold the world in which we live. Thus, I encourage you to lead by example. Let’s work together to shape the world we wish to see.

Looking ahead, there are some important dates to note for the upcoming semester: The Patton College will be holding a Student Organization Fair on Sept. 1 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the first-floor hallway of Lindley Hall. This is an excellent opportunity to both showcase your organization and recruit new members to it. In addition, you are all invited to The Advocacy and Leadership Summit, which will be held Oct. 23 in the Living Learning Center (rooms 102 and 104) from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. This FREE event, organized by students for us all, will help you discover and understand how to impact your professional community through advocacy on issues relevant to you. I strongly encourage you to attend this workshop. Remember: As part of the Patton College, you are CALLED to LEAD. We are preparing you to be Change Agents who are
Lifelong Learners committed to Embracing Diversity and LEADership, and we are here to help you grow into those roles. You will be OHIO Proud and Patton Proud!

Also, feel free to come by and visit with me during my Open Office Hours on Tuesdays from 9-11 a.m. and on Fridays from 3-5 p.m. Please contact Ivy Crockron at Ed-deanassistant@ohio.edu to set up an appointment. I hope to see or meet you at some point in the coming months.

If you have not done so already, please “Like” us on Facebook and “follow” us on Pinterest and Twitter @OUPattonCollege to get updates about news and events from around The Patton College. Also subscribe to our YouTube Channel at OhioPattonCollege. We want to hear from you!

I have no doubt that you will accomplish great things in the year ahead. The Patton College is at its best when we lead by example. That means listening to each other, working together, and being open to change. When you do that, you make us great.

Let’s have a wonderful year!

Sincerely,

Renée A. Middleton, Dean