Dear friends,

I hope you are all enjoying this cool fall weather while it lasts! It seems to have reinvigorated our UCF Knights football team, which set a new scoring record last weekend against Austin Peay’s Governors. Go Knights! This month's update combines our October news from UCF Downtown.
Transforming Vision into Reality

History was also made last week when Dr. Hitt announced his retirement following a remarkable nearly 26-year tenure as UCF’s president. Among so many ways that his leadership has shaped Central Florida, it was his vision for UCF Downtown that served as a catalyst for engaging with our longstanding partners to create a 21st-century model of higher education in the heart of downtown Orlando. Knowing the powerful impact college had on Dr. Hitt’s life as a first-generation student, we look forward to opening our doors in fall 2019 to those who will follow in his footsteps.

Construction Begins on Residence Halls

In other news this month, the Orlando City Council unanimously approved the 15-story residence hall for UCF Downtown. Developed by Ustler Group and KUD, the building will house 600 beds for students and add more than 100,000 square feet of commercial and educational space, including Valencia College’s Walt Disney World School of Hospitality and Culinary Arts.
With the land sale completed last week, there is already work being done at the site.

**Tours are Underway at UCF Downtown**

I am also happy to share that this past Friday we welcomed our first Groundbreakers’ Tour group! Over the course of the next few months, we will bring future UCF Downtown faculty and staff to the Center for Emerging Media for an exclusive tour. The tour includes presentations from UCF Downtown staff, as well as a walking excursion that identifies key locations and buildings in Creative Village, including Dr. Phillips Academic Commons, UCF Police Department sub-station and student housing. If you haven’t already signed up to attend, I encourage you to do so. For more information about the tours, please email Isabel Hagan.

**CREATE Hosts Documentary Camp**
Finally, I'd like to share this short segment with you from WUCF TV. This summer, UCF’s Center for Research in Education, Arts, Technology and Entertainment (CREATE), which is located in the Center for Emerging Media, invited high school students from the Boys & Girls Club to create their own documentaries. Students were given the opportunity to share their personal stories on film and feature a person who is inspiring them to complete high school. The segment highlights the importance of our partnerships in the community and how exposure to real-life careers can spark an interest in higher education.

We look forward to hosting you at UCF Downtown soon and thank you for your continued support.
Questions?

You can reach us at ucfdowntown@ucf.edu.