

November 14, 2013

Dear Colleagues,

We have an implicit compact with our students and their families that each CALS student will graduate with knowledge and career skills second to none—skills that leave us confident they will land a job and will provide them options for adapting professionally to our changing world.

The Forbes Building will be 100 years old in 2015. While we celebrate its role in our university's heritage, in many ways it doesn't represent what we are and do in the 21st century. It doesn't meet our students' needs and it sends poor signals to our stakeholders and the commerce we support. It is vitally important that this main entry to CALS reflect what our students, alumni, and corporate hiring partners expect in today's world and marketplace. The last remodeling of the Forbes Building Lobby took place in 1962. It also has obsolete infrastructure. For these reasons, I have received permission to proceed with the first renovation of the Forbes Building Lobby in more than 50 years. The renovation will include new furniture, interview rooms, new offices, a board room, study spaces, and large screen televisions streaming market information and CALS news.

Form follows function and we are in the process of creating an integrated "Careers Center" to occupy part of this new space. The Careers Center will provide students with the soft skills they need for success today and will also facilitate internships and provide opportunities for businesses, agencies and industry to recruit and to engage our students.

The Forbes Lobby Centenary project and CALS Careers Center project are launching immediately—architectural plans are in development and construction is planned for February or March 2014, with completion planned in early 2015. Both projects must be supported predominantly by private fundraising. Our development officers are now starting to work with individuals, foundations, and corporations to raise funds.

My hope also is that you might consider a UA Cares gift toward the worthy objectives of supporting our students and their careers, and architecture consistent with our work today and for the next 50 years. For more information on how you can contribute through UA Cares, please contact the CALS Development and Alumni Affairs office at (520) 621-7190 or lwhite@email.arizona.edu.

Thank you,



Shane C. Burgess
Vice Provost and Dean