January 2014

Dear Husky Friends,

Today’s University of Washington students are the most globally minded in our university’s history. Representing a variety of countries and cultures, our students have grown up in a constantly connected world that brings Seattle closer to Spain, and Tacoma closer to Taiwan. To me, all UW students are international students, no matter where their passport was issued. I call them “iStudents,” global citizens who have a unique opportunity to interact and learn in the diverse environment that the UW has nurtured for 152 years. They will become tomorrow’s physicians, inventors, entrepreneurs, artists, scientists and educators. And they will change the world.

As president, I am committed to making sure the University of Washington is accessible, experimental, enterprising, and, of course, global. And it’s important to me that our iStudents put these foundations to work when they graduate as leaders, thinkers and doers with a uniquely international mindset.

Cultivating an international outlook in our students is imperative to their future success—as individuals, as citizens and as world leaders. And its relevance will endure whether you are a freshman at convocation or a 20-year alumnus. Please read on to learn more about the UW’s commitment to provide all of our iStudents the foundation they need to change the world.

Sincerely,

Michael K. Young
President
So, how many of you are from California? And traveling out of your comfort zone doesn’t just make you a better learner. It makes you a better citizen.

Welcome to the University of Washington! That is the traditional greeting I have given to freshmen this morning. It is so: You all had the same concerns. And I hope you know how heartfelt they are. But as I reflected on this year’s class, and the importance of the adventure on which you are about to embark, I realized that a traditional greeting simply isn’t enough.

So, I will not say, “Hi, y’all.” I will not say, “Aloha!”

“Thank you for being here!”

Instead, I will say, “Hello! Marhaban.

Marhaban is a word that means ‘hello’ or ‘welcome’ in Arabic, and I have picked it because we really are a global university. We have students from more than 160 countries and territories. And that is something you can never learn from textbooks.

And traveling out of your comfort zone doesn’t just make you a better learner. It makes you a better citizen.

Hello! Marhaban.

...the usual charge to simply find your passion doesn’t do justice to the opportunities you will find here. There are opportunities that the world needs you to find...

And from now on, when people ask what international students we have at UW, your answer will be simple: All of them. All of you.

...the world does not need people who stand and are recognized. And our students from India?

...and China. And our students from our own state of Washington?

...the usual charge to simply find your passions and...