

Nov. 11, 2014

Dear UW Colleges and UW-Extension colleagues and Board of Visitors members,

Today is Veterans Day. We celebrate Veterans Day on this date because fighting ceased between Germany and the Allied troops during WWI at the 11<sup>th</sup> hour of the 11<sup>th</sup> day of the 11<sup>th</sup> month.

I ask you to pause and reflect on the military service of your loved ones, your colleagues, your community members and your students and learners.

Today is a day to thank those who step up to serve our country, even when that means putting themselves at risk. Their bravery, their love of country and their patriotism should be honored.

They are selfless in putting their country above all else. We thank them – and their loved ones – for that service. Anyone who has ever been in a military family knows that it's not only the man or woman in uniform who serves. The whole family makes sacrifices and suffers losses when a parent or sibling is far away and all too often in harm's way.

I also want to take this time to thank our UW Colleges and UW-Extension faculty and staff who provide assistance to current and former military members on our campuses and county-based programs, who support them through programs such as Operation Military Kids, and who recognize their service through collaborations such as the A Face for Every Name Photo Project.

If you see an active duty service member or can contact a veteran or a dependent of a veteran today, please take a moment to thank them for their service. It doesn't matter how long it's been since they wore a uniform. It's never too late to say thank you.

Aaron

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