Welcome back. With 2021 behind us, it's time to take stock of our goals and what we, and our students, wish to accomplish. George Mason University presents many opportunities to be safe, to engage with the community, and to partners, want to accomplish. George Mason University presents many opportunities to be safe, to engage with the community, and to realize your educational goals.

As we start the new semester, I'm hoping we each can 'turn over a new leaf.' And I'm not just referring to Mason's amazing students. We have many new faces on campus this year, and I couldn't be more proud of the diversity, energy, and passion that you bring to Mason. Each day is a chance for us to learn from one another, to grow, and to achieve.

Back in the 16th century, people referred to pages in a book as leaves. In the same way, we can think of this new semester as an opportunity to start fresh, to set new goals, and to make a positive impact on our community. It's not just about trying something new. It's about elevating the way we do what we do.

Time to grow: What's on your list to accomplish this semester? Do you want to land that big grant? Access the latest technology? Complete your research? Start up a new lab? Make new friends? Have an idea to try out in a class or workshop? As you plan, remember that every small step you take is a step toward achieving your goals.

As we move forward, I encourage you to think about what you can do to make a positive impact on the Mason community. Be safe: I'm grateful for the many COVID-19 prevention mechanisms our university has in place. From testing to vaccinations to mask-wearing, we have taken steps to create a safe and healthy learning environment. Please continue to follow these protocols, and do your part to keep our community healthy.

It's not just about trying something new. It's about elevating the way we do what we do. As we move forward, I hope you each will set goals that challenge you to grow, to learn, and to make a positive impact on the world. Good luck with your goals, and I look forward to seeing what you achieve this semester.