

Dear Friends,

The past few weeks have certainly been history-making as we experienced “Snowmageddon” in the Seattle area. I have lived in the Northwest most of my life, and I can only remember perhaps one other winter where we encountered a storm such as we had the past few weeks. President Castleberry sent out a letter to our campus giving appropriate commendation to those who helped keep the campus functional, from food service to maintenance to student activities. Many people deserve a lot of thanks from several key departments.

There are a few character traits for us to discover through this experience, and one of them is initiative. People who lead with initiative are not bystanders. They don’t wait for someone to tell them what to do; they take initiative. When you find a person who takes initiative, you have found a leader. Proverbs 10:4 instructs us, “Lazy hands make for poverty, but diligent hands bring wealth.” Those who take initiative are not lazy. They are diligent leaders who make the most of every situation and opportunity.

When we lack initiative, it diminishes our performance and the potential we have for motivating others in at least three ways:

1. **Volunteering** – The best leaders notice needs and willingly volunteer without waiting for someone to ask. Their initiative doesn’t end with the job description. If someone needs help, a leader with initiative willingly jumps in to help.

2. **Learning** – People with initiative are leaders who figure things out. When they don’t know how, they learn how. Leaders who don’t take the initiative to act usually don’t take the initiative to grow or learn.

3. **Execution** – People with initiative are not procrastinators. Initiators put feet to their goals, responsibilities, and objectives. They often go further than others because they don’t just talk about their ideas; they make them happen. Thomas Edison once said, “Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work.”

As you think back on the past few weeks, if you think of a department or leader who took initiative to keep our community safe and functional, consider a gesture of appreciation to thank them for serving our community well.

*Lord, thank you for leaders who take the initiative to serve the greater good of our whole community. There are many lessons for us to learn as we go through the storms in life. I pray we will receive the experiences of our recent winter storm and all grow as a community to be excellent leaders. Amen.*

### **COMING UP THIS WEEK**

**Mon, Feb 25** | Liturgical Rhythms: Abby Stovall | Butterfield Chapel, 10 & 11:20am

**Mon, Feb 25** | Pursuit | Butterfield Chapel, 8:30pm

**Wed, Feb 27** | People of Prayer: Dr. Todd Pickett | Butterfield Chapel, 10 & 11:20am

**Wed, Feb 27** | Staff & Faculty Chapel: Dr. Todd Pickett | Butterfield Chapel, 3:40pm

**Fri, May 1** | Ephesians: Dr. Rowlanda Cawthon | Butterfield Chapel, 10 & 11:20am

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Money Magazine Top 20 Most Affordable Private Colleges

