

March 19, 2003

It is with great enthusiasm that I present Creighton University's strategic plan through the year 2008. (It is implemented immediately.)

*Project 125*, which launches our one hundred and twenty-fifth anniversary, provides the guiding principles for our strategic planning and budgeting process for the next five years. It represents the five primary themes that will shape our collective future.

Our objective is to create a learning context that will provide a quality education in a renewed learning environment. An environment where values and ethics will be integrated across the curriculum; where intellectual growth and professional mastery will prepare our students – undergraduate and professional – for the world of tomorrow; and where the entire Creighton community will be challenged to develop the knowledge, skills and flexibility needed to be productive leaders in the service of others.

**We believe Creighton to be a national leader in preparing students in a faith-based setting for responsible leadership, professional distinction, and committed citizenship.** This is the vision that guides our institutional planning.

I am personally pleased with the efforts and results of the *Project 125* Committee and thank all who participated in the process. As I look to the future, I am aware that Creighton is fiscally stable, enjoys an enviable reputation for academic excellence, and is physically undergoing major upgrades and expansion of its facilities. The confluence of those factors provides fertile ground for the implementation of these plans.

Before I leave you to review this strategic plan, I want to add two personal comments. One: The Catholic identity of Creighton remains the primary focus of the University. It is our *raison d'être*; without it Creighton is just another independent institution of higher learning at the crossroads of America.

My second reflection addresses the reality of the freedom that allows our faculty and staff, from many different perspectives, to actively and personally participate in this Jesuit enterprise. Your collaboration is essential for our future success.

*Project 125* is an invitation to become engaged in the life of the University. Read it with an openness that exemplifies a Creighton family member. Integrate its content into your own corner of Creighton. Celebrate its optimism. Partake of its breath of vision. Indulge your spirit as you view the University from a new perspective. And generously assist in building our future together. We are one hundred and twenty-five years young and the horizon opens before us!

All best wishes and appreciation.

Sincerely,

John P. Schlegel, S.J.