



Congratulations on your acceptance to the venerable Wilberforce University. As the Chief Academic Officer, I welcome you to Wilberforce University and on behalf of the community invite you to be a part of the history which preceded you and the future which awaits you. We extend this invitation warmly and generously with full recognition that it has not been extended to everyone. We are, without apology, selective in who we invite to join the Wilberforce University family. You have accepted the invitation to be part of an historic institution which has educated generations of African Americans and given them the knowledge and skills to make a profound difference in their lives and the lives of others. This is a special place and we take pride in our history as the oldest, private, co-educational HBCU in the nation with a legacy of noteworthy achievement.

You will enter an academic community which celebrates the life of the mind and the cultivation of disciplined thought and honorable action. When you chose to come to Wilberforce University, you declared your intention to become your personal best, to identify and develop your intellectual ability through a course of study that can ultimately lead you to graduate and professional school, the workplace or business ownership. You have come to Wilberforce University to learn, to be better, to do better, to act better and to present yourself to the world in a way that reflects the wonder of who you are, your talents, aspirations and potential. We, at Wilberforce, pledge our commitment to helping you achieve your academic goals by providing a supportive, nurturing, demanding academic environment that encourages you to learn and grow in ways yet unimagined. Our faculty, staff and administrators will give you their best so that you can become your best.

As you prepare for your collegiate journey, there are a few things you will need to know regarding what to expect in the next few months. From now on, we will refer to your first year at Wilberforce as the *WU First Year Experience*. The WU First Year Experience is comprised of events, programs, courses, and mentorship that are designed to ensure your success at Wilberforce University. This first event in your First Year Experience is the summer Student Orientation, Advising, and Registration (S.O.A.R.). Join us:

June 23 or July 14
Summer S.O.A.R. Event, 8:00AM-5:00PM, Wilberforce University
Register online at <http://wilberforce.edu/students/first-year-experience/>

Throughout the summer we will continue to share more information about Wilberforce University, and prepare you for your arrival on July 28, 2017 for New Student Orientation. From time to time you will receive correspondence and important information from various campus officials that will introduce you to what our community values.

As a proud community of individuals we are committed to the creation of an environment that ensures your academic success through a set of principles called the *WU Way*. The *WU Way* represents a set of core values, expectations and behaviors which define the Wilberforce University academic experience for every student enrolled. The *WU Way* distinguishes Wilberforce University students from every other college or university and identifies its students and graduates as individuals of noteworthy distinction. While the hallmark values of excellence, innovation, and kindness from the foundation of the *WU Way*, embracing and living the *WU Way* involves a broader and deeper commitment to personal and intellectual transformation.

The following statements outline the five formative principles of the *WU Way*:

1. The *WU Way* respects, celebrates and appreciates the humanity in every human being.
2. The *WU Way* respects diversity and appreciates the differences among human beings and values exposure to different ideas, world-views, perspectives, attitudes, backgrounds, appearances, cultures, and religions.
3. The *WU Way* values kindness and the importance of living and behaving harmoniously in community with others.
4. The *WU Way* embraces the excitement of intellectual curiosity, innovation and excellence, disciplined methods of inquiry and critical thinking and problem solving as valuable habits of the mind worthy of development and life-long cultivation.
5. The *WU Way* is pride and respect for Wilberforce University, its history and traditions and its place as a national treasure and role in the personal and intellectual development of its students.

These are the time-honored values which influence how we live, learn and work at Wilberforce University. On behalf of the Wilberforce University family, it is my pleasure to extend a heartfelt welcome and wish you a productive and successful tenure at Wilberforce University.

I look forward to welcoming you to campus soon.

Sincerely,

Elfred Anthony Pinkard
Executive Vice President and Provost