DEAR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS,

I remember sitting at a desk, reading books and listening to lectures as a mostly solitary endeavor for the majority of my education. Gathering knowledge in those ways still has its place. But as the world has grown more complex, as 21st century careers demand nimble and critical thinking, as global interactions become commonplace, learning has changed.

Today, UW Bothell students learn best through experiences. What sets a UW Bothell education apart — and what makes our graduates most valued as employees and contributors to society — is the deeply engaged ways students interact with each other, faculty, the community and the world around them.

When students can participate in collaborative research, industry capstones and internships, study abroad and other global initiatives, community-based learning projects at home and across the globe, they put instruction into practice even before they graduate. They not only learn hands-on skills in a real-world environment that transfer immediately into the workplace, but also make a tangible difference in people’s lives through the projects on which they work. Their experiences introduce them to the infinite possibilities that exist for them to change the world.

Many research studies into these so-called “high-impact practices” prove that they increase students’ motivation to stay in school, boost their grades and expand their professional and personal growth. These benefits are especially acute for first generation and other underserved students.

Experiential learning is so essential that the Campaign for UW Bothell is asking alumni and donors like you to support student experiences in new and unprecedented ways. I hope you will all consider making a gift to transform learning and transform lives. Learn more at uwb.edu/give.

Thank you for your support.

Wolf Yeigh, Chancellor