It is my honor and pleasure to welcome you to the 2019 Boards of Visitors Orientation.

The State Council of Higher Education for Virginia has presented orientations for new members of the governing boards of Virginia’s public colleges and universities for many years. Since 2013, new members’ participation in these orientations has been mandated in statute.

To serve on a college or university board is a great responsibility. What you learn over these two days will give you many of the tools you will use in the years to come.

In addition, you and your fellow board members hold a wealth of knowledge and experience upon which you will draw. We encourage you to learn from each other. We encourage you to speak up, ask questions and express your points of view in a timely manner.

In Virginia, we are fortunate to have one of the nation’s great communities of public and private colleges and universities.

Thank you for your willingness to serve. The Commonwealth and higher education will be stronger as a result. I look forward to sharing this time with you as you prepare to lead Virginia forward.

Sincerely,

W. Heywood Fralin
Chair, State Council of Higher Education for Virginia