



December 23, 2021

To: CAM Faculty and Staff
From: Larry Kaptain, Dean **LK**
Subject: Dean's Message

Dear Colleagues,

First off, thanks to all of you—and to our students, alumni, community partners and supporters. So much was accomplished this past semester. Check out [CAM's website](#) and look at [2022 Studio](#). Also, take a look at this article about [Maria Buszek and her big award](#).

- 1) The message that came out yesterday from Chris Puckett and Dean Pamela Jansma about the January '22 return is well written and very clear. The major point I hear, is for faculty not to change modalities of teaching, without going through the Chair. This is something that happened inadvertently this past Fall in CAM and caused some complications. Thanks for being attentive to that.
- 2) Laura Harvey, as many of you know from her time with CAM as the Operations Specialist, has been selected as the finalist for the Student Enrollment Coordinator position, starting in January. This important role will assist Dave Walter in the areas of LYNX Camp, recruitment, retention, and engagement. Please join me in congratulating Laura! We are beginning the process of working with various stakeholders to assess the front desk coverage needs and develop a plan moving forward.
- 3) The next steps in the preparation for a Video Game Design and Production degree program, are:
 - a) Jeff Merkel will work with the Chairs and faculty to determine the pathways and classes needed for the degree(s). Michelle Carpenter, Richard Strasser, and other VA, FiTV and MEIS faculty will all have input. We have budgeted for faculty stipends for the folks who will be writing the courses.
 - b) The Executive Committee will get input from faculty about the position description for a faculty Director of Video Game Design and Production. We are hoping that the national search can roll out in late February and be completed so that the next hire can start in July or August, '22, with an anticipated degree launch in Fall '23.
 - c) By early January 2022, we anticipate receiving a research study that was commissioned from Hanover Research. They are working right now (at this moment) to do the environmental scan (for other schools that have these degrees), possibilities for jobs, and how this can align, support, and advance Strategic Plan 2030.
- 4) I want to extend and share my appreciation to all of you (faculty, students, and staff) who performed so well with all the uncertainties and limitations that we faced in this past summer and fall. It is important that we recognize and show gratitude to our Chairs. They have done top-notch work in challenging times.

And finally, I want to recommend a very short reading—perhaps 2 minutes. It's an excerpt from a book on leadership by Max DePree-- [a very short chapter called "The Millwright Died."](#) *"Recognizing diversity gives us the chance to provide meaning, fulfillment and purpose, which are not to be relegated to private life any more than are such things as love, beauty, and joy. **When we think about leaders and the variety of gifts people bring to corporations and institutions, we see that the art of leadership lies in polishing and liberating and enabling those gifts.**"* I recognize all our faculty and staff as leaders, and wish you all the best, in the spirit of the season and the approach of a new year.