



To: The Campus Community  
From: Joel E. Anderson, Chancellor  
RE: Trojan Touchstone Initiative  
Date: January 21, 2016

Over the last year, I have mentioned in a number of campus forums the Trojan Touchstone initiative. We are less than one month away from launching this campus-wide professional development initiative, which is about unifying the campus community with a set of core values.

Our core values, the Trojan Touchstones, were identified and selected from a poll of the UALR community in April 2015. The Touchstones represent the best of our history and our aspirations for the future.

- Knowledge
- Innovation
- Engagement
- Accessibility
- Respect

Beginning Monday, February 8, the Trojan Touchstone Leadership Team and the Trojan Touchstone Ambassadors will present a three-hour program designed for all UALR faculty and staff members to learn the purpose of the Trojan Touchstone initiative and the relevance of it to your role at the university.

We are very pleased that Dr. Julien Mirivel, Associate Professor of Speech Communication and Interim Chair of the Department of Criminal Justice, and Amber Smith, Associate Vice Provost for Student Affairs, will be leading the Trojan Touchstone initiative sessions.

Dr. Mirivel and Ms. Smith will present the same session eight times—twice a day over four days—**February 8-11 at 9:00 a.m.** and again **at 1:00 p.m.** in the Donaghey Student Center Ledbetter Assembly Hall. Please plan to attend one of the eight sessions and encourage your colleagues to participate as well. I ask that supervisors make it possible for everyone to attend one of the sessions.

Those who attend one of the Trojan Touchstone program sessions will receive a **ticket for one free food truck lunch** at the campus-wide Trojan Touchstone celebration on **Friday, February 12 from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.** in the Donaghey Student Center Fieldhouse.

The headliners for the February 12 celebration are: **Victor Wooten**, five-time Grammy Award-winning jazz bassist and educator; **Rod Taylor** musician, scholar, author, and award-winning educator who has taught for over twenty years; **Lari White**, three-time Grammy Award-winning recording artist, hit songwriter and producer, indie record label owner, and actress; **JD Blair**, an award-winning drummer who has played for a variety of renowned artist, including Shania Twain; and **Beau Tackett**, lead guitarist for country superstar Blake Shelton. These sought-after musicians will incorporate great music, audience participation, and music-centered activities to celebrate the Trojan Touchstones. Their programs are energetic and interactive, so come ready to have fun.

Food Truck Fridays have been a way to introduce the campus to the five Trojan Touchstones. You may have enjoyed a good meal and a chance to visit with colleagues during the two Food Truck Friday events held last fall, highlighting the values of Respect and Engagement.

This Friday, January 22, the Trojan Touchstone Food Truck event will recognize the value of Accessibility at UALR. On Friday, February 5 the Food Truck event will celebrate Knowledge and Innovation. Both will feature a free hot chocolate station.

The Trojan Touchstone initiative is intended to help all of us at UALR communicate mindfully and add value to the Trojan community. It will help inspire faculty, staff, and students to make a difference in every day interactions. It also will provide all of us with either a refresher course or new exposure to the history and traditions that make UALR an excellent university.

This is a historical moment for UALR. The Trojan Touchstone initiative will systematically, over time, shape our campus culture, help us strengthen our sense of community, and serve our students more effectively.

Every person who works at UALR contributes to the education of our students. If we foster a cooperative community among our faculty and staff, everyone benefits. Our students will feel the positive environment on campus, and they will want to stay.

I would like for everyone to embrace the Trojan Touchstones and think about how your participation can help all of us keep our focus on supporting each other and fulfilling our mission to enrich intellects and lives.