

MEMORANDUM

TO: Faculty, Staff, and Students

FROM: Robert A. Altenkirch

RE: Standing Together for Quality Education in Alabama

DATE: December 7, 2015

When the Alabama Legislature convenes next year, education funding will experience its most significant financial challenge in many years. In the 2015 session, \$80 million was transferred from the Education Trust Fund, which provides funding for pre-K through PhD education, to the General Fund. That possibility looms again in 2016. The effects would be devastating.

For all of us who understand the essential value that public education at all levels provides to the citizens of our state, it will be more important than ever that we stand together. That is why Chancellor Robert Witt, the UA and UAB presidents, and I, and education leaders statewide, are supporting a new grassroots initiative called Alabama Unites for Education.

Alabama Unites for Education, a non-partisan group, will involve students, faculty, staff, parents, alumni, and business leaders who recognize that a first-class education system is the single most important key to future success, job creation, and economic growth. Through its website and social media, Alabama Unites will be a reliable source of news about how UAH and all of education are having a powerful impact on improving our state's economy and enhancing the quality of life for our fellow citizens. We believe it will enable our elected officials in Montgomery to understand fully the importance of adequate funding for all of education.

Please take just a minute now to become a member by filling out the membership form on the website: www.ALUnites.org. There is no charge to join Alabama Unites for Education.

Thanks,

Bob