

February 2, 2001

Dear Colleagues,

We are moving forward on an important study that we've just begun and to ask for your support in making it succeed. Our Information Technology (IT) Assessment study focuses on how we use information technologies, such as computers and networks, to support our learning, teaching, research and public service missions. As we move ahead in the 21st century, information technology will continue to play an ever growing component of our daily lives and will be a key factor in our continuing success as an institution. We've had some great successes across our university with technology, but we know that we can do even better.

This is the most extensive study of information technology that UW-Milwaukee has undertaken. A key first step in this study was a university wide Information Technology Survey. It went out in December to all faculty and staff and a representative set of our students. If you completed and returned the survey, I thank you for your effort. This survey is helping us understand how you use (or don't use) technology today, how you may want to use it in the future and how you think we can improve the way that we support you when you use it.

Our next steps will explore the results of these surveys to identify and prioritize the issues and inhibitors to leveraging our IT investment. The approach includes a series of user and support focus group work sessions, interviews, and open input sessions. We will be communicating the schedules and logistics as available. If you are contacted, I'd request that you find time to participate. The quality of our study depends on your participation. We want your ideas. We want your help.

Our study will be completed in April and we plan to communicate back to the entire campus community the results of the study and our plans to move ahead with its recommendations.

Thanks again for your support!

John Wanat
Provost and Vice Chancellor