

April 3, 2017

Dear Supporters of Pioneer Athletics,

We are proud to be participating in NCAA Division III Week. During April 3-9, DIII's 450 schools are recognizing some of the many ways that varsity athletics benefit students.

Because I value the role that sport and physical activity play in my own life, I am especially delighted to lead our community in celebrating the hard work and dedication of our student-athletes here at Lewis & Clark. Instrumental as well, of course, are all the professors, coaches, trainers, mentors, and staff members committed to their success in the classroom, on the field, and beyond.

While it's great to set aside some time to focus attention on DIII, our student-athletes earn our recognition and deserve our support every day. Here, some 20 percent of our students compete in 19 varsity sports. While Division III schools do not offer athletic scholarships, our student-athletes bring as much focus and intensity to competition as do their counterparts in larger schools.

Talk with any of our student-athletes for just a few minutes, as I know many of you do regularly, and you understand that competing here, being part of a team—and all the hard work, discipline, and sacrifice that go with that—teaches valuable lessons, builds character, and brings joy.

Our institutional commitment to our students and athletics is deeply rooted. As I hope you know, our Building Cham**P**IOns initiative underscores our focus on developing and demonstrating integrity in classrooms, competition, character, and community.

I am proud to invite you to join me in supporting our student-athletes in as many ways as you can. They give their all, always, and it means a great deal when we show up to cheer them on.

Go Pios! Sincerely,

David G. Ellis Interim President