

FCS ADA



Mark Wharton

**University of
Tennessee at Chattanooga**
Vice Chancellor and
Director of Athletics

First of all, I want to congratulate each of you for making it through the past year. For better or for worse, the 2020-21 season was one we will all remember. I hope everyone is taking some time to relax, recharge and reflect on the last 14 months, because new challenges are on the horizon and the time to meet them is quickly approaching.

One thing that has really stood out to me more than ever is the importance of relationships. Strong relationships across the board helped us get through the pandemic and has our department poised for a bright future.

We can get so bogged down in our day-to-day activities that it is easy to neglect the need to cultivate and maintain the bonds with the individuals we both serve and work with.

Like many of us, I am fortunate to have outstanding staff and coaches who did a great

job of navigating the unknowns over the last year. They were amazing at adapting to the work-from-home environment, while still being able to produce a quality product and guide our student-athletes to success.

We have 13 outstanding head coaches, and dozens of dedicated assistants, who managed to maintain some level of normalcy for our student-athletes during this unusual season. They set the tone for our department and were the driving force in our ability to compete this year.

Our MocsVision crew hit the required broadcast events by getting creative and being pioneers in self-producing golf and tennis for ESPN+. Along with our entire external unit, they worked tirelessly through a rugged spring schedule to put on a full slate of events in one semester.

Without in-person tutoring for most of the year, our academic staff still managed to guide our student-athletes to three of the top semester GPAs in school history. I also can't say enough about our athletic trainers, who kept our student-athletes and coaches competing in a safe environment.

None of our activities and events would have been possible if it wasn't for the guidance and

leadership of our campus administration. They kept our needs in mind while making decisions that enabled the entire campus to stay safe and healthy.

This allowed us the opportunity to continue to engage our fans and donors through games and events when it wasn't common for places to have spectators. At a time when revenue is down across the country, we were able to maintain a strong showing of financial support from our fans and donors.

I am sure many of you have those same bragging points for your department. I say all of this as a reminder to take some time in the next few weeks to reconnect with your staff and coaches. Reach out to some key constituents and let them all know how much you appreciate their hard work and continued dedication to your program.

Now is a good time to solidify those relationships. Taking these steps today will help you better serve the most important relationships you can have in college athletics, the ones with your student-athletes. They are our primary constituents, but if you are on solid ground with the other groups now, it gives you a better chance to focus on them as you prepare for the 2021-22 season.

Inspiration. Motivation. Celebration.



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