

President's Communiqué  
Dr. Ken Kitts  
October 12, 2017

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Colleagues: Please see below for updates on projects and developments of interest to our campus community.

Enrollment Final census headcount for this fall semester was 7,457, the second highest tally in our institutional history and just 35 students below last year's record ~~enrollment~~, a difference of less than one-half of one percent (0.47%). The decrease in credit ~~production~~ was even smaller. This is a good showing in light of the large number of students ~~who~~ graduated in 2016-17. As recently as June, we thought enrollment could be down 1-2% from last year, but we continued to close the gap in July and August. Our retention rate increased from 75% last year to 75.8% this year (peer average is 71.2%) and our six-year graduation rate rose from 43.5% to 44.5% (peer average is 43.9%). We should be encouraged by these trends, as they reflect positively on student satisfaction with UNA. For next year, we have targeted a 3% enrollment increase ~~that~~ would place our headcount over 7,600 ~~for~~ fall 2018. That's a tall order in light of budgetary uncertainties and the highly competitive environment of higher education. However, we are the University of North Alabama, and ~~we~~ have the right people, programs, and processes in place to continue to grow.

