Dear alumni, family and friends,

Our May 2017 commencement speaker, Dr. Earl Lewis, president of the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, asked our graduates to stand and make the following pledge: “We, the graduating class of Clark University, will do the unimagined. We will nurture and promote our passion for social justice and change the world, responsibly.”

It is testimony to Clark’s mission that this optimistic call to action feels authentic to our community not only on commencement day, but also in quieter moments of reflection. At Clark, this pledge is neither gratuitous nor boastful — it is a statement of values. Our new Clark alumni embrace the responsibility and the opportunity to make a difference. Importantly, there is a strong sense that our students have built the skills and capabilities needed to translate passion into purpose, and connect knowledge to practice.

In the months leading up to commencement, I make a point of asking our graduating students two questions. First, I invite them to tell me about an experience they have had at Clark that shaped the life path they wish to pursue, and the self they seek to be in life, career and citizenship. Many students speak about the transformative influence of a particular professor, coach or mentor who challenged, inspired, and, above all, cared. Others note their involvement in research or in clubs and organizations, and the sense of community at Clark that allows students to test out different versions of themselves. These responses speak to a continuity of mission at Clark that, with your support, we seek to steward and enhance. They are opportunities worthy of our investment.

I also ask our graduating students about their aspirations for Clark — their hopes for ways in which the University might improve. A common theme is the significant opportunity we have to accomplish more together as a passionate community of alumni, family and friends of Clark. There is urgency in these responses, with a belief that we can expand and deepen our influence on issues of global importance.

We are committed to doing just that. This May, the University officially launched Campaign Clark, our comprehensive giving campaign to raise resources to support student scholarships, faculty teaching and research innovation, programs and facilities. You will find us hard at work creating ways for you to engage meaningfully with Clark, and for Clark to have impact in the world. I invite you all to be a part of this critically important effort to support the future of our great University. Now is our time.

Sincerely,

DAVID P. ANGEL, President