



Welcome Note from New Interim Director of the Joiner Institute

July 21, 2020

Dear Members of the William Joiner Institute Community,

On July 9th, 2020, I was appointed as the Interim Director of the William Joiner Institute following the retirement of Dr. Thomas Kane on July 3rd, 2020. A link to Interim Provost McDermott's announcement is provided [here](#) for your information and review of Tom's accomplishments while leading the William Joiner Institute.

I am truly humbled by this opportunity and the responsibility this position and Institute hold with respect to supporting our veteran community and those impacted by war. I want to take this opportunity to first say hello and let you know I am really looking forward to getting to work with, and for, all of you in some capacity in the near future. What follows is some initial insight into my plans as I settle into this role.

During a time when the country struggles to unite, it is critically important to renew the William Joiner Institute's commitment to supporting our veteran community, their families, and others affected by war regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, religion or political ideology. We will deliver collaborative programming, conduct critical research, encourage open debate, and identify and offer the necessary support services this community seeks and needs without exception. As we are continuing to operate remotely, and the Institute's activities have been slowed and even placed on hold as a result of the coronavirus pandemic, we are going to take advantage of this down-time to reflect on our mission, and envision how we will honor history, evaluate the present, and prepare for a future that provides a pathway towards fiscal solvency while maintaining the fundamental mission of the Institute. I believe there is untapped opportunity for serving our veterans (current and future), their families, and others impacted by conflicts around the globe, and I am confident that we'll be successful in positioning the Institute to become, and remain, viable for the next 30 years.

A primary objective, not uncommon from my predecessors', is to develop a strategy that leads to the Institute's leadership, collaborative participation, and expansion into a diverse set of funded projects, grants and contracts year-over-year. As available resources are limited, we'll have to be very innovative and tempered in what we decide to do, such that we focus on initiatives that have the highest likelihood of success. At the same time, we need to step forward into new areas of research, training, and service with the objective of sustaining (reinvigorating) the affinity of our current donors, corporations and foundations, and also expanding that attraction to a new set of prospective benefactors. It is my goal that between these two explicitly linked objectives, we'll be able to provide the Institute with a broader, more stable resource-base to support the Institute's historic and new programmatic initiatives.

One of the first steps I plan to take to facilitate attaining these objectives, is to establish an Advisory Council to help guide and inform the operational and fund-raising strategies of the Institute for the next three to five years. As we step out on this journey, I'll be sure to provide periodic updates on our progress.

Following in the footsteps of the previous Joiner Center and Joiner Institute directors is a daunting, but welcome, challenge. I really look forward to working with the Joiner Institute community, and to your continued support.

Again, thank you for this great opportunity.

Sincerely,

Tom



Thomas C. Miller
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Financial Services
Interim Director, William Joiner Institute for the Study of War and
Social Consequences
"Tactics without strategy is the noise before defeat" SUN TZU

William Joiner Institute for the Study of War and Social Consequences

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