



PROVOST AND VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

June 23, 2008

Dear Student:

You are about to undertake a new, exciting and challenging adventure. As a WCSU student, your horizons will expand, you will learn to think globally and you will explore many issues of differences. We live in a highly diverse world, a world that requires us to understand what we have in common and how we appreciate our differences.

Beginning with the Class of 2012, each new freshmen class will explore a common theme during their first academic year. "Learning Through Differences" is the theme for your class, the Class of 2012. It is a cutting-edge theme. It will require you to explore your personal beliefs as well as those of your classmates. The discussions that will evolve from this theme are designed to turn you into tomorrow's leaders.



Reading the book "The Namesake", by Jhumpa Lahiri is the first step in your learning process. I am asking you to read this book prior to your arrival in the fall. Throughout the academic year, your professors will incorporate this theme into your classes as part of your course work. You will participate in small discussion groups exploring the issues discussed in the book, you will meet the author of the book and you will prepare a written analysis of how the book impacts you.

Your class will be pioneers and will participate in the process of a community common read. We expect you to set a standard of high excellence that will serve as a guide post and benchmark for future classes who will follow the trail that you have blazed.

Sincerely,

Dr. Linda K. Rinker  
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs