Hi. My name is Michael Crow, president of Arizona State University, and I want to welcome new students to the university and welcome back returning students.

Fall 2011 is the opening of our academic year. It’s going to be an exciting year on lots of fronts. This is the year in which we implement the new academic calendar so that you, as students, can have more choices, move more quickly through your academic programs, take more and multiple degree pathways if this is what you are interested in and just generally have more opportunity to do what you want to do. So I want you to know that’s where we are headed.

We haven’t been on hiatus while you have been out taking classes, working or finishing up high school to be able to get here – we have been busy working at the university. At the end of May, we graduated 11,000 graduates - a large number of teachers, engineers, artists, business folks and so forth. The point here is that this is a large institution, we are graduating people that are going out into the marketplace and we think our students are doing very well.

In June, we broke ground on two new academic villages – one on the Polytechnic campus and one on the West campus. We are moving forward with our plans for a new rec center on the Downtown Phoenix campus, as well as on the Poly campus and West campus, and a new rec center addition on the Tempe campus. These are all exciting things that will be moving forward.

In terms of July, we were fighting hard for students by trying to maintain Pell grant funding for those of you that are eligible for Pell grants. There have been a few issues in Washington that you might have seen if you were paying attention to what was going on in the Capitol, and we are trying to make certain that students’ interests and your interests are well protected as investments in the future. We think that it’s wise for the government to invest in young people, so they have an opportunity to expand on their educational opportunities. We have been pushing hard.

Let me talk a little bit about some exciting things that I can’t really mention but keep your eyes on the news. ASU is going to be announcing a major new relationship related to health and health outcomes. We are very excited about this and it is something that could affect all of us here in Arizona in a significant way. I just want you to be aware of all that.

Now, I want to spend a couple of minutes, both for the students who are returning and for the new students, focusing on your success. We have about 20,000 people that work for the university in one way or another and a few thousand of those are your professors and/or instructors. Everyone else is here to help you to be successful in one way or another by helping to shape the physical environment and the learning environment, that you are now a part of. Helping to work with you directly to provide service in financial aid or counseling services or tutoring services or library services or whatever it happens to be. One of the things I want you to make certain that you do as you encounter challenges, difficulties, stresses and strains, is that you ask for help. If you don’t get help, whether it’s a financial, personal or academic matter, you let me know. The best way to let me know things is to email me at michael.crow@asu.edu.
We are here to be of service to you. We are here to help you attain your learning objectives. Our objective is not to produce an artist or a musician or an engineer or a scientist or a humanist or a social scientist or what have you...our job is to help to create an opportunity for you to become a master learner where you have the capacity to learn anything. That is what we are here to help you to do. Whatever you need, you make sure that we know so that we can help you to be successful.

One of the things coming up, turns out that football is big thing in the fall. We have a lot of great games coming up, a lot of situations, just pay attention to the website for game day. Try to figure out if we are wearing gold or black or whatever we are wearing these days because we are going to be making some changes. It’s actually true we now have black uniforms and black helmets and they look really cool. If you haven’t seen them, you might enjoy them.

But let me come back to this: if you need help make sure to let us know and if you don’t get the help that you need make sure you let me know.

Welcome back and welcome to ASU. I look forward to seeing you around at the university on our various campuses.