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**Abstract**

This Letter to a New President is an invitation to first-time university presidents to reflect on the conditions they need to create early in their mandate for effective and successful presidential leadership. It is a tool and provides a checklist intended to assist new presidents in mapping out their initial plan of action. It builds on my experience and knowledge of the experiences of other presidents and tries to shine a light on matters which may seem obvious but which are often not attended to in sufficient detail early in a presidency. I have written it as a letter I would have been happy to receive when I entered my first presidency some 15 years ago. I have twice served as head of relatively small institutions focused primarily on undergraduate education ? once as Principal and Vice-Chancellor of a well-established university in Canada and the other as President of a developing institution in a developing country ? and I have served as Vice-Principal in a larger researchintensive university in Canada. (HRK / Abstract übernommen)