

## Message from the Vice Chancellor

### THE PATH TO EXCELLENCE

I am pleased to write the message for the first issue of the e-Newsletter of the Colleges/ Institutes/ Polytechnics, affiliated with GTU. It has been, very appropriately named as '**GTU Plexus**'.

On 6<sup>th</sup> December 2012, GTU had set up a **College Development Council (CDC)** for helping develop an environment of active learning at the Colleges/ Institutes/ Polytechnics, affiliated with GTU

The world expects its Universities to serve the world and their respective nations through studies and research of their faculty members and research students. Our learning environment is not exciting because our research and studies are not relevant to the needs of our society<sup>1</sup>. GTU has not yet been able to construct Research Centres, Schools of learning, laboratories and libraries in its own campus. However to help researchers in Colleges<sup>2</sup>, the University invites experts and regularly conducts seminars and conferences, which provide a platform for researchers in Colleges to inter-act with top-most professionals in their field of interest. Leadership in research is being provided to its Management institutes by the University through Joint Research projects by its Post-graduate Research Centres. We all, including the GTU's Colleges have to develop through bootstrapping and through networking & coordination by CDC.

I have found small universities in North America assuming responsibilities for cleaner water and rivers and other public services. They help determine technology policies not only for their own country but also for African and South American countries and sometimes for India.

A CALL: Let each one of our Departments in every College take up an area of study (jointly with other departments). Within a couple of years, the department and the College can establish its brand value.

Thus a mechanical engineering department may take up the study of bullet trains. Every faculty member may take up a different aspect and guide student projects in that area. The department can organize a monthly seminar on new developments in technologies used in railways. It can work jointly with electrical and electronic engineering departments. An adjoining management college can study the financial viability issues and the ways of financing such a project. Or a management college may study the issue of different aspects of public-private partnerships for modernization of the railway station near the College.

A Pharmacy College may study common diseases in its area and the medication in allopathic and ayurvedic systems in all their multiple aspects by different researchers in a College.

The idea is to take up an issue of public interest and to study it all its aspects by faculty members and students. Issues like clean water for all, affordable housing, transport systems, effective and cheaper medications for some common disease, smart cities, cleaning of rivers, development of efficient ports, complete elimination of over-crowding in trains, clean railway and bus stations, efficient solid waste management systems for our cities and towns can be the areas to be studied by technologists..

Let each one of our Colleges begin studying and conducting research in at least one area of public interest and let us remember that, as citizens, we should get the best of service that citizens of any country are able to get from their public services. Soon the College will find that the environment in the departments of the College will become more purposeful and that it would be moving along a path towards excellence.

- Dr. Akshai Aggarwal