



July 15, 2020

Dear friends and colleagues,

Change of the Director of Kyoto University North American Center

Please allow me to express my sincere gratitude for your kind support of the Kyoto University North American Center and its activities.

I write to inform you that Associate Professor Nathan Badenoch, who has been serving as the director of the North American Center will soon retire from the position.

The North American Center, which was established in Washington, DC, in October 2018, is engaged in various activities, many in cooperation with the university's San Diego Liaison Office. In November 2019, a ceremony to celebrate the first anniversary of the North American Center was held, which was attended by many guests, including members of Kyoto University's alumni associations and delegates from North American higher education institutions. In the two years since the opening of the center, Director Badenoch and our staff met with over 150 people to discuss the current status of higher education in North America and international exchange initiatives at Kyoto University. These many interactions have steadily borne fruit in the form of university-level student exchange agreements and the development of research collaboration programs. Such achievements could not have been possible without your support and collaboration.

Since February of this year, however, due to the spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19), the center's activities have not progressed as we had envisioned. Kyoto University is currently exploring ways to continue its education, research, and international exchange activities going forward, but many questions in that regard still remain without satisfactory answers. Facing this uncertain future, however, we will continue to endeavor to develop new activities through maintaining strong ties with our valued partners, utilizing the regional advantages of North America, and gaining an understanding of the post-COVID-19 world. We hope that the COVID-19 virus will soon be contained, and look forward to a full resumption of our activities. In the meantime, we greatly appreciate your continuing guidance and support.

From August 1, Prof. Yukari Mitsunashi, vice-director of Kyoto University's International Strategy Office, will replace Director Badenoch as the North American Center's acting director, and will manage its operations from Kyoto.

For current information regarding the center's activities, please see its official website and Facebook page:

<https://www.oc.kyoto-u.ac.jp/overseas-centers/north-america/en/>

<https://www.facebook.com/KUNorthAmerica/>

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Yasuyuki Kono", written over a horizontal line.

Yasuyuki Kono
Vice-President for International Strategy
Kyoto University

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