

## The Greatest of These is Love

[Photo: Dr. Farmer.jpg] **2/4/19** — Every February, we hear the word “love” more than perhaps any other month of the year. School children exchange little red Valentine’s Day cards, adolescents feel their hearts pitter-patter as they wonder if the object of their affection shares their feelings, and spouses do their very best to remember their special someone . . . so as not end up in the doghouse.

As children we are taught to love God and country. We love our families, friends, and perhaps that special elementary school teacher or Sunday school teacher who showed us kindness and love. For many of us, there are those fond memories of a special childhood pet, our beloved dog or cat. Then as we grow older we experience a new kind of love as we date and find that very special someone. Who can forget that first kiss or their first love?

As if all of these forms of love were not enough, adulthood for many brings love and marriage, which is often followed by one of the richest forms of love. Looking at that newborn baby for the first time releases a powerful flow of boundless love that is not soon forgotten. With the passing of years, parents become grandparents all too soon. While I have not yet personally experienced being a grandparent, I have witnessed the powerful love in the eyes of grandparents toward their grandchildren. But beware, when grandparents start breaking out the pictures, it’s time to run!

I have only recently experienced an intensely heightened love for my hometown, my broader community, and for the institution I serve. Many of us love our community and our alma mater, but I am talking about a different kind of love . . . a very deep and profound love.

I have always loved Weatherford College. It forever changed my life by setting me on a path of lifelong learning that ultimately led me to where I am today. Without Weatherford College, my life would unquestionably be very different.

Yet lately, that love has significantly deepened and matured. To enjoy the blessing of returning to my hometown and to serve my alma mater is something for which I will forever be thankful. I love this place! I love the bells, I love the old oak trees, I love the old library, and I love our new academic buildings and ball fields. However, what I love most of all about Weatherford College are our people. The people of Weatherford College built, maintain, nourish, and grow our loving campus culture.

I know that I am not the only one who loves Weatherford College deeply. In our sesquicentennial year, I appeal to the broader WC community to engage in the love that is Weatherford College. Whether that means attending one of our many special events, helping mentor a WC student, or giving a financial contribution, do what works for you. We welcome you, we need you, and we want you to share in our love. Faith, hope, and love. But the greatest of these is love.

**Tod Allen Farmer**  
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