

Extra 6 January, 2023



## President's New Year's greeting: "Getting new things off the ground together"

Dear Humboldtians,

I wish you confidence, good health and plenty of energy for the tasks that lie ahead of us in the New Year.

2022 has challenged us all. I would like to sincerely thank you for your daily commitment in the past year - whether in the unbureaucratic support for Ukrainian students and academics, in the successful return to face-to-face teaching, in the SAP implementation or in overcoming the energy crisis. Even though the year is still young, we suspect that 2023 will not be an easy year either: The Russian war of aggression against Ukraine, the threat to academic freedom and education, especially in Iran and Afghanistan, inflation and advancing climate change make us aware of how much not only our academic expertise but also our solidarity will continue to be needed and of the great political and social challenges we face in these turbulent times.

As a university, we have set ourselves a lot of goals for the year 2023: We want to work together with all interested parties on a mission statement for teaching and advance the Circle U European university alliance. With new applications for clusters of excellence, we will enter a new round of competition and deepen our cooperation in the Berlin University Alliance.

We want to make important progress towards climate neutrality with our own concept and improve our internal administrative processes. To this end, in the first quarter we will begin an inventory with broad participation of where we stand with the humboldt gemeinsam programme and the introduction of SAP. The reform of our HU constitution remains on the agenda, as does the implementation of a new personnel structure in the academic area.

Perhaps we won't succeed in everything so quickly, but I am optimistic that we as Humboldtians will continue to do well this year and further develop our university with an eye to the future. We will tackle the challenges ahead with confidence and energy and together we will get new things off the ground. In this regard, I am particularly pleased that this year the team of the Presidential Board will be complete again with the assumption of office by the new Vice President for Budget, Personnel and Technology, Niels Helle-Mayer.

Once again, all the best for you in 2023!

With best regards

Yours
Julia von Blumenthal
President of Humboldt-Universität

