

Dear students and colleagues,

Looking forward to the upcoming Christmas holidays, I would like to send you my warmest greetings and hope that you can all enjoy peace, relaxation and joy with your loved ones. The year 2023 was eventful and impactful in every aspect – both globally and in terms of university politics, as well as socially. Of course, this affects universities in general and therefore also us at TH Wildau.

### **The courage to change**

Looking back on 2023, it fills me with great joy that we have mastered a wide range of challenges together: Your dedicated cooperation and commitment have helped us to record very significant increases in first-year students this winter semester: With around 20 % more than last winter semester, we are "way ahead" of Brandenburg's universities in this regard this year. This is certainly also due to our willingness and ability to innovate and the associated degree programme reforms.

We were also very successful again in the area of research and transfer, and we will continue to endeavour to build on this strength as a university of applied sciences.

The coronavirus pandemic was officially declared over at the beginning of the year and we can therefore look back on numerous wonderful events that were held without restrictions, including the 12th Science Week, during which we presented our innovative research and transfer activities. The University Information Day and, on the same day, the Wildau Music Day, the specialist days spread throughout the year, our Hiking Day, which has now become a small tradition, or the various international afternoons and the ceremonial farewell to our graduates were also highlights on our campus, which were well attended and well received.

### **Looking back and looking ahead**

I would like to invite you to take a look back together: On our Christmas 2023 page, we share impressions of the past months and an insight into what has moved our university during this time. Here and on [THinsights](#) you will find my personal Christmas greeting video to you all. Just take a look, it's always nice to see what we can do together.

And, remember: fill up on energy, but save some in the office and please switch off all technical devices that don't need power over the holidays (PCs, monitors, etc.).

Merry Christmas and a healthy, successful 2024!

Mit herzlichen Grüßen /

With kind regards

Ulrike Tippe  
President