

Dear Colleagues,

I am honored to begin this new chapter with you and serve as Mary Baldwin University's 10th President. For 181 years, this institution has stood as a beacon of opportunity and possibility, unafraid to support the disenfranchised or to evolve in the face of historic challenges. I'm deeply inspired by MBU's legacy of innovation and academic excellence — but most importantly, by the spirit, dedication, and passion of this community of students, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends.

In the coming days, I am eager to meet each of you and learn more about what Mary Baldwin means to you. As faculty and staff, your perspective and experience will be invaluable in shaping the future of this institution, and I welcome your input, your thoughts, and your concerns.

As we pause to reflect on the foundational American belief in "liberty and justice for all," commemorating Juneteenth and now Independence Day, we also begin to contemplate this week's historic Supreme Court decisions that struck down affirmative action in college admissions and blocked President Biden's student loan forgiveness program.

This community has never shied away from a challenge or from educating those who needed an extra hand, and I want to be clear that Mary Baldwin will remain steadfast in our long-standing commitment to providing access to education for all. Students of great promise need Mary Baldwin more than ever, and we must rise in this moment, as we have so often in the past, in pursuit of opportunity and inclusion in Staunton, the Commonwealth, and beyond. We will be guided by our mission to empower inclusive leaders — all inclusive leaders — to create lives of purpose and professional success. And we will continue to provide transformational education as well as programming that promotes student belonging — areas of equity and inclusion in which Mary Baldwin excels.

Together, we will continue Mary Baldwin's legacy of innovation and justice, ensuring it endures for generations of students, faculty, and staff to come.

I look forward to seeing you on campus very soon. Please don't hesitate to stop in and say hello. My door is always open.

All in for Mary Baldwin,

Jeff Stein  
President