

Dear MBU Parents and Families,

I am honored to begin this new chapter with you and serve as Mary Baldwin University's 10th President. Serving in this role is the opportunity of a lifetime for me, and I could not be more excited to join this community.

For 181 years, this institution has stood as a beacon of opportunity and possibility, unafraid to support the disenfranchised or evolve and lead in the face of historic challenges. I'm deeply inspired by its legacy – but most importantly, by the spirit, dedication, and passion of Mary Baldwin's students and the families who love and support them.

Having sent two children of our own off to college, my wife, Chrissy, and I can relate to the fact that you have invested much in the decision to send your students to MBU. I am eager to meet them, to hear about their triumphs and challenges. My top priority is to learn about what this institution means to them and to incorporate their (and your) perspectives into building Mary Baldwin's future.

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 examine historic Supreme Court decisions that struck down affirmative action in college admissions and blocked President Biden's student loan forgiveness program.

I know many of you have questions about how this recent Supreme Court action might affect your students. Matthew Munsey, MBU's vice president of enrollment management, will reach out soon with more information to help answer your questions.

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 and through which many of your students find a sense of belonging.

Together, we will shape the future of Mary Baldwin, expanding outreach and opportunities to underserved communities, and ensuring MBU's legacy of innovation and justice for generations of families to come.

All in for Mary Baldwin,

Jeff Stein
President