

Dear Students,

I am honored to begin this new chapter with you and serve as Mary Baldwin University's 10th President. 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 to evolve and lead in the face of historic challenges. I'm deeply inspired by MBU's legacy – but most importantly, by your spirit, dedication, and passion.

As students, you inspire faculty, staff, alumni, donors, and the broader community. I am eager to meet you, to hear about your triumphs as well as your concerns. My top priority is to learn about what this institution means to you and to incorporate your perspectives into building MBU'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 you. 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 you find a sense of community.

Even as we shape the university's future, we will uphold this rich programming, and continue to find ways to expand outreach and opportunities to underserved communities. We will remain a beacon for all students, regardless of their race, and continue to serve as a proud example of diversity.

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

My wife, Chrissy, and I look forward to seeing you on campus very soon. Please don't hesitate to stop in and say hello.

All in for Mary Baldwin,

Jeff Stein
President