

Dear Alumni,

In my first six weeks as president of Mary Baldwin, my wife, Chrissy, and I have received such a warm and enthusiastic welcome from this community, and we have come to understand what you know so well: Mary Baldwin is a truly special place, connecting remarkable people together.

In just a few days, we'll welcome approximately 350 new undergraduate residential students to campus for orientation, and we will experience our first Convocation, Founders Day, and Apple Day together. Along with our traditions, I can't wait for the energy, curiosity, and aspirations they will bring to campus. That shared sense of purpose will fuel our important work during the year ahead, as the university evolves and advances to meet our students' needs, and strives to best equip them for life's opportunities and challenges.

In June, Board Chair and fellow alumna Gabby McCree '83 wrote to you about our work to build a university that is responsive to evolving needs of undergraduate residential students and allows us to continue to serve our mission well into the future. I am writing today to provide you with an update on the efforts of faculty, staff, trustees, and two newly convened creative teams who have been thinking deeply about our academic offerings and the student experience at Mary Baldwin.

The work is informed by analysis from independent consultant EY-Parthenon, results from a student engagement survey, and preliminary market research that grants us direct access to the ideas and aspirations of students we hope to serve. The creative teams are also guided by a commitment to an open, collaborative approach and will consider all viable solutions when building the path forward for the institution.

We have set in motion a process that will unfold over the entirety of the academic year, but we do know that there will be some difficult decisions ahead this semester. As we engage in this work, I want to be transparent about the options before us, including the closure of some academic programs and creation of new programs. This work will affect students, faculty, staff, university planning, budgets, and employee contracts.

We also remain focused on identifying more opportunities to improve the current student and alumni experience right now, such as the launch this fall of the [McCree Center for Life Success](#) – our new hub for life design and professional development – presented to alumni at Homecoming in June.

I am committed to finding the best solutions for our students and university as we work to evolve the best components of a first-class liberal arts education aligned with industry, provide experiences that build durable skills, and increase workforce readiness. The challenges of this moment require that we simultaneously advance Mary Baldwin *and* support this community. The times demand that we listen carefully while changing wisely to meet students where they are and take them to where they want to be. Above all, we are guided by our mission to provide access to education for all and empower our students to create lives of purpose and professional success. Even as we adapt to the new circumstances of higher education, we must maintain the heart and tradition of the Mary Baldwin you know and love.

You are important members of our Mary Baldwin community, and I value your input and feedback throughout this process. We plan to keep you updated on our work, and in the meantime, if you have questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out to our team at [\*\*reimagine@marybaldwin.edu\*\*](mailto:reimagine@marybaldwin.edu).

I am confident that together, we will continue to build on Mary Baldwin's legacy for generations to come.

All in for Mary Baldwin,

Dr. Jeff Stein  
President