

August 30, 2023

Colleagues,

I hope you're having a good week (the first week of classes for many of you), and thank you for your work welcoming and engaging our more than 550 new students. Last week was an exciting week on the Staunton campus with the Opening of School events and development sessions, new student move-in, orientation, and Convocation.

Below are follow up items from the [Opening of School address](#) and other sessions last Tuesday.

1. **Town Halls and Listening Sessions:** We will have opportunities throughout the year to share updates, engage in discussion, and garner your feedback.

The first town halls for the semester will be:

- ♦ [Thursday, August 31 at 12:15 p.m.](#) in Francis Auditorium. A virtual attendance option is also available via Zoom.
 - [Join Zoom Meeting](#)
Passcode: 322685
- ♦ [Thursday, September 14 at 12:15 p.m.](#) in Francis Auditorium and virtual

2. **NSSE Data Discussion:** Thank you to Dr. Amy Diduch for leading our discussion on the student engagement data and giving us time to reflect on ways to engage students this year. [Click here for the slides from Dr. Diduch's presentation](#). You can also [click here to access her document compiling ideas](#) from the discussion/google form.

3. **Teaching and Learning with AI:** Tuesday afternoon Dr. Derek Bruff led a session for faculty and academic affairs staff on "Teaching and Learning in the Age of Generative AI." [Click here to access his slides](#), including ideas for navigating and integrating AI into the classroom.

4. **Faculty/Staff Meals:** In order to support colleagues sharing a meal together, we will have free faculty and staff lunch in Hunt Dining Hall on the following dates. Our thanks to Chartwells for supporting this community effort. Free faculty/staff lunch dates this fall (which also coincide with faculty meeting dates) are:

- ♦ Friday, September 22
- ♦ Friday, October 6
- ♦ Friday, December 1

I will send a follow-up email with a copy of the Institutional Priorities and updates on the Faculty/Staff Experience Committee and Diversity, Equity,

and Inclusion planning committees in the coming weeks.

Thank you for all that you do each and every day to help our students. I'm grateful to serve alongside dedicated educators like you.

All in for Mary Baldwin,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Stein", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dr. Jeff Stein
President