

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As I write this letter, my days as President of The College of St. Scholastica are drawing to a close. These have been three very full years! I have been so proud and blessed to be a member of the St. Scholastica family and to share in the work of advancing the mission of the College along with so many extraordinary people. Through these efforts, we live out our commitment to providing an excellent education for our students that is grounded in the richness of the Benedictine tradition. Thank you for the important role that you play in supporting the College in ways great and small. You are an integral part of this powerful community that has been tirelessly advancing The College of St. Scholastica as a force for good in our world for generations.

In reflecting on my time at St. Scholastica, I am reminded once again that we have so much to celebrate and to be thankful for. As we look ahead to the fall term, we are pleased that our new first-year and transfer student registrations are right on track to meet or exceed enrollment goals. The College's emphasis on inclusive excellence is significant to our finest future. Accordingly, an important aspiration for the College is to increase our enrollment of students from diverse backgrounds. Almost 20% of the incoming Class of 2023 identifies as coming from an underrepresented racial or ethnic background. This number has increased by almost 8% since fall 2016, which is significant progress indeed! Our online and graduate programs are evolving in new ways to meet the needs of increasingly nontraditional students seeking higher education in the years ahead. We have just added a new program in Data Analytics to our offerings to meet growing industry needs. This summer we are completing the third and final phase of renovation of Somers Hall. We have also invested in classrooms and nursing simulation labs in the Science Center. These projects represent \$12 million in facilities upgrades accomplished over the last three years, all without acquiring any additional debt. They are vitally important to the student experience and to recruitment



efforts for the Duluth campus. Comprehensive fundraising efforts have been very successful this year, totaling \$5.3 million against a goal of \$5 million. Our government and foundation grants are also showing strong results with \$5 million awarded to St. Scholastica, up from \$4 million last year. Our endowment now sits at \$93 million, having

increased from \$69 million just three years ago. Great news for St. Scholastica!

As exciting as it is to acknowledge these successes, we know that the most important outcomes for St. Scholastica are not found in financial metrics. Rather, they are found in the lives and the stories of our students. We are eager to see our students pursue their academic interests and develop their gifts, and we prepare them exceptionally well for the jobs they will enter after graduation, but our tradition calls us to something more – it calls us to a higher purpose. To support our students in their full human development, we must not only help them prepare to make a living, but also a life of meaning. Each day, in and out of the classroom, St. Scholastica provides the space and conditions for our students to grow, to stretch, to search, and to ponder those “big questions” that ultimately help them in this quest.

At the end of the semester, I invited a group of graduating seniors to sit down with me for a conversation about their St. Scholastica journey. I was curious about what stood out for them. These students spoke very eloquently and specifically about meaningful encounters and pivotal experiences along the way. Their stories described authentic connections between our Benedictine values and important decisions and actions undertaken. As they prepared to go out into the world as graduates, I was deeply moved by their unassuming yet confident stance. They have been well prepared for life ahead and they trust in the foundation they have been provided. One may never know what difficulties will be found behind a door that is about to be opened. But I got the sense that whatever they discover, these students are well prepared to respond and lead with