Dear W&J students:

Welcome back to W&J for your spring semester! As we all embark upon our work together, I am reminded about how proud I am of W&J as a community that embraces fairness, diversity and integrity.

Our fundamental American values, enshrined in our Declaration of Independence, our Bill of Rights, and the attitudes carved into the Statue of Liberty embrace all nationalities, races, physical abilities, religions, sexualities, and genders. They uphold freedoms of speech, of the press, and of religion. And they envision America leading an interconnected world by embodying these values. Our college acts upon these values as well.

College is a conversation, not an echo chamber. That conversation is richer because we do not always agree. But when we talk across lines of difference, we do so with respect for one another and for the facts. We discuss difficult issues not to win the argument but to better understand one another and the world around us. As former Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan said to his colleagues years ago, “Your are entitled to your own opinion, but not your own facts.”

I know that I can count on all of you to enact all of these values as we work together to improve the lives of all people in this country and around the world. Welcome home!

Juncta Juvant,

Tori Haring-Smith
President