

BRYN MAWR

COLLEGE

November 2023

Dear Friend,

It has been the honor of my career to serve as the ninth president of Bryn Mawr College. I have taken the responsibility of stewarding this great institution very seriously, and I am proud of what we – the students, faculty, staff, alumnae/i, and families – have accomplished.

Among the many things we have done together, our work to make this institution more accessible to the best students in the world stands out. By focusing our resources on financial aid for our students, we have increased the excellence of our student body and our institution at large. We have made significant investments to continue to meet 100% of demonstrated need (fewer than 5% of four-year colleges nationwide do this) and commit more than a quarter of our operating budget, \$42.8 million, each year to financial aid.

After removing loans from aid packages for families with incomes under \$60,000 last year, I am pleased to say that we will extend that policy to families with household incomes under \$110,000 and offer \$4,000 in grant aid rather than loans for all students on financial aid. This means that many students will graduate with no loan debt and the most federal loan debt for any student will be \$11,000 total for four years.

This is a game-changer for us, but there's still more to be done.

Over the past decade, the size and quality of our applicant pools have grown in tandem, with recent years seeing increasing numbers of top academic applicants, with more of those applicants making Bryn Mawr their top choice. This success comes with an ever-increasing price, however, and even with our latest financial commitments, we are still falling short of being able to make a Bryn Mawr education within reach for all who want to attend.

A decade ago, we admitted every one of our highly ranked applicants without regard for their ability to pay, but now there are so many that we can no longer offer admission to all of them. These students, from limited-income and middle-income families alike, need even more substantial financial aid to be able to come here, and we need the resources that allow them to join our community and help the College thrive.

Put simply, investing as much as we can in financial aid is investing in student excellence. It is central to our abiding academic mission and values and why I have focused my presidency on – and see my legacy as – the College's commitment to this access. We want every student who is considering Bryn Mawr to be able to attend without regard to financial circumstances and have a greater ability to focus on their studies and other aspects of their life while at Bryn Mawr.

This is why I support Bryn Mawr, why I give gifts each year to The Bryn Mawr Fund, and why I ask you to join me in doing so. The revenue from the Fund gives us the resources and the budgetary flexibility to make these significant moves in our financial aid policies. We count on you to support our mission and enroll students whose excellence is unassailable and whose ambitions are limitless.

Thank you for being a part of this special community with me.

Best regards,

Kimberly W. Cassidy
President