

"Bearing the Torch: Elevating through innovation and access"
Inaugural Address, October 18, 2024
Dr. Jeff Stein, 10th President of Mary Baldwin

Good morning! Thank you for this incredible celebration of Mary Baldwin past, present, and future. I offer a warm Mary Baldwin welcome and my sincere thanks to each of you for generously sharing your time with us this morning.

We so appreciate the support of delegates, local and Commonwealth officials, Staunton City Council, Mayor Claffey, the NAACP, Council of Independent Colleges of Virginia President Chris Peace, VFIC, Heifetz International, American Shakespeare Center, members of the Staunton Rotary and Temple House of Israel, and so many more. To the studentq 3

relationships with faculty and staff – their challenging

get better. to let more light in, the desire to always become more – more inclusive, more innovative – must remain at the heart of this place.

Consider a few examples from the past 50 years alone. . . . President Ginny Lester in 1977 opened ADP, the Adult Degree Program, which invited adults

We must continue to welcome all who want an education and ask hard questions that will quell the urge to become complacent, or stop innovating.

Now, there are those who would argue Mary Baldwin should remain what

And this morning let's officially add fundraising milestones. In just one year, we are up 36 percent in

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