

Katherine Bergeron President

October 26, 2015

Dear Members of the Campus Community,

As you know, the College has embarked on a year of comprehensive <u>strategic planning</u> to determine the priorities that will guide us for the next decade. I am very pleased with the progress so far, and am writing to bring you up to date on what has been accomplished, what lies on the horizon, and what you can do to contribute.

In September, I worked with the leadership of the Student Government Association, the Staff Council, and the Faculty Steering and Conference Committee to assemble an inclusive <u>strategic planning committee</u>, which will guide the planning process through next semester. The committee was announced on Sept. 30 and held its first meeting on Oct. 1. I very much appreciate the commitment of all the members and have great confidence in the leadership of the two co-chairs — Abby Van Slyck, dean of the faculty, and Chad Jones, associate professor of botany.

A team of consultants from Keeling & Associates is supporting the committee in its work. The K & A team has made three visits to campus since August, and during that time, managed to speak with over 200 people. The engagement of students, faculty, and staff has been excellent so far, and I urge you to continue to stay involved. I would ask you, especially, to think about a couple of critical questions:

• What can we do to make the education we offer at Connecticut College, and the student experience, even more distinctive?

• What could the College do that would make us all proud?

There will be many opportunities in the coming weeks to share your perspective. In early November, the strategic planning committee will host several open forums on campus, including "idea walls" that will allow people to exchange written ideas and comments. We will also be launching an online survey to collect ideas from an even broader segment of the College community. Again, I encourage you to let your voice be heard. We want you to keep coming back, thinking with us, and sharing your feedback.

As always, you may submit comments to the committee at any time using the <u>feedback page</u> on the strategic planning website. Thank you for your ideas and your support.

Yours,

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