



Dear W&M Alumni and Friends,

It has been an unprecedented week at William & Mary. In barely more than seven days, faculty and staff in every school reinvented their spring semesters. Despite the intense worry and uncertainty of this time, the sense of shared purpose in this community is strong.

I know many of you have been following campus and community messages; for those who wish to, they are all archived at our main COVID-19 response page ([www.wm.edu/coronavirus](http://www.wm.edu/coronavirus)), along with a growing list of FAQs that respond to the community's questions and concerns.

This Friday, I invite you to join us for reflections on William & Mary's response to this pandemic. I will be hosting a virtual **Community Conversation** ([www.wm.edu/conversation](http://www.wm.edu/conversation)) from the President's House on **Friday at 2 p.m. ET**. A few faculty and undergraduates will join me (virtually) to share their reflections on this week's transition to distance learning. We will also use this as an opportunity to weave into conversations many of the questions we have been hearing.

Please join us on Friday to hear more about how this week unfolded, from teachers' and students' perspectives, and the many ways in which our community has rallied together. If this kind of virtual conversation proves welcome, we'll continue it in the coming weeks. More details to come – as well as other opportunities to connect with W&M and fellow alumni and friends during this time of safe social distancing.

Over the past week, I have heard from so many in our community. The emotions have been intensely mixed, with good reason. I've heard many expressions of pride, determination, solace in collaborative work, joy in creativity under pressure. So much gratitude is flowing. It is important to honor the painful feelings as well: care for the health of loved ones and one's own health; frustration when William & Mary misses a step in communication; feelings of being unsettled and out of place; worry about finances.

The clear throughline in everything that has been shared is care for others. That speaks volumes about who we are as a university community. Even in distress, so many of you have taken the time to send a kind note to a faculty member, staff member, student leader, or administrator. Please know how much each of these gestures lifts our spirits.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "K.A. Rowe".

Katherine A. Rowe  
President

Message sent by:  
William & Mary  
PO Box 8795, Williamsburg, VA 23187-8795

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