

WAGNER COLLEGE

OFFICE OF THE PROVOST

“There is no end
To what a living world
Will demand of you.”

Parable of the Sower
Octavia E. Butler

August 2023

Dear Colleagues,

Well, here we are in year two. Sometimes it feels as if the time has flown and sometimes I can't believe that we are headed into only our second fall semester together. The year has certainly provided me with opportunities to learn and to grow and I am so grateful for all those moments.

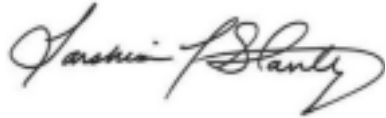
I am beginning my usual ritual of ordering No. 2 pencils and thinking intensely about the education and well-being of the students both returning and new. As I contemplate the vast array of challenges required to be educators in the 21st century, I find my heart beating faster not with trepidation but with excitement. What a moment to be a teacher and researcher. There is more content knowledge available on our phones that all of previous history could have imagined. We are in a dance with AI, rising costs, accessibility, and sustainability. The very nature of who we are as local and global citizens is being redefined and we get to be on the front lines. There is no place I'd rather be because we get to help shape the future. Perhaps our reach is small, about five-hundred graduates a year, but our reach is also mighty. Education can counter fear, prejudice, manipulation, and fixed-mindsets.

This year we will meet again for a day of professional development. The **Wagner College Fall Faculty Institute will take place on August 23rd**. The preeminent educator, Dr. Mary B. Marcy will spend the day with us as we learn from her book *The Small College Imperative*. Please take some time to read it if you haven't already. During the afternoon we will also be in conversation with Contessa McNulty, Specialized Student Support Lead for District 31, regarding accessibility pedagogy.

Our next moves as a college are critical to our long term success. Thus, this year we will continue our work of strengthening our best practices and of determining the places where we need to grow. This year's book club selection is Brene Brown's *Dare to Lead: Brave Work. Tough Conversations. Whole Hearts* (2018). I am going to read this book with my direct reports, but anyone who wants to join for our discussion can let me know.

Finally, let me thank you, and all the members of our Wagner College community as we get ready for another year. Another year of nervous first-years, another year of spectacular achievement, another year of growing pains, and another year of successfully delivering an excellent education to our students.

Thank you all for your work—that which is seen and that which is unseen.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Tarshia L. Stanley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Tarshia L. Stanley, PhD
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs