

Dear Colleagues,

I hope your academic year is off to a great start. I'm writing to share campus news, application and financial aid updates, and exciting ways to engage with our campus in the months to come. For those of you who prefer top-level takeaways, click [here](#) to skip to the highlights.

Campus News

Last week, our new first-year and transfer students [participated in Marched Through the Arch](#), an annual tradition where hundreds of supportive family members and fellow administrators cheered on this remarkable group as they entered campus together through our historic Weber Arch and kicked off a weeklong orientation, Wildcat Welcome. We welcomed over 2,100 first-year and roughly 260 transfer students to campus this fall. Our official class profile is not yet available, but your students can reference [last year's](#) in the meantime.

This year, our new [University President Mung Chiang](#) and new [Provost Erik Luijten](#) also marched through the Arch for the first time. And there is a lot going on around campus as we welcome a new President and Provost:

- Last spring, Northwestern launched its first [University-wide fundraising campaign](#) focused entirely on scholarships and student support.
- The Wildcats will play their first home football game in our new Ryan Field on October 2. This will be the first NFL-type stadium in college football. [Click here](#) to explore what many are calling the best place to watch football in America.
- This fall also brings the opening of a [new hub for the social sciences and global affairs](#). The renovated building will be the new home of the Northwestern Roberta Buffett Institute for Global Affairs; our School of Education and Social Policy; the Institute for Policy Research; and several departments in our Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences.
- We also have a few newer academic programs to note among the 180 majors, minors, and certificates available across our six undergraduate schools:
 - This fall our engineering school launched a new [Artificial Intelligence major](#), available to students outside engineering as a double major. An AI minor is also available to undergrads across our six schools, as is a new certificate in Music and AI offered as a collaboration between our music and engineering schools, and a certificate in Human-Computer Interaction, offered by our school of communication and school of engineering.
 - Last year our school of communication created a new Management in Creative Industries Certificate in partnership with our Kellogg School of Management, which adds to a [constellation of offerings for students interested in pre-business](#), including Kellogg certificates in financial economics and managerial analytics.
- Speaking of the business world, The Garage, our campus innovation hub, was recently [named the number one university incubator](#) by Time magazine.
- And finally, our [Litowitz Center for Enlightened Disagreement](#) is leading a campus reading program around George Saunders's Vigil. Saunders will give a campus-wide keynote on November 1.

Application and Aid Updates

Our application options and deadlines can be found [online](#). We remain test-optional and will not require the science section for any ACT test-takers. See our [testing FAQs](#) for more information.

Last year we piloted a new Early Decision option for transfer applicants and will offer that again this cycle. This early round operates like first-year ED, where ED transfer applicants commit to enrolling if admitted. The ED transfer deadline is March 1, and we'll notify those candidates of a decision the first week in April. Our Regular Decision transfer deadline is April 1, and we'll release those decisions in mid-to-late May. Our [transfer application](#) will open on October 1.

Northwestern remains committed to ensuring students from all backgrounds can afford Northwestern and fully access the University's remarkable support, resources, and opportunities. This commitment begins with an [undergraduate financial aid program](#) that meets all students' demonstrated need with loan-free scholarship packages. Most families earning a combined income of under \$150K pay no tuition, and most earning under \$70K attend at no cost.

We care deeply about growing access for applicants, too, and make fee waivers available to applicants across a wide range of circumstances, backgrounds, and affiliations. Roughly 40% of applicants have qualified for fee waivers in recent years including any first-gen students whose parents did not graduate from a four-year college and any student working with an access-focused CBO. Students can [visit our website](#) to explore fee-waiver eligibility and next steps.

Opportunities for Prospective Students

Although we no longer offer alumni interviews as an optional part of the application process, prospective applicants can connect with our incredible alumni through [Alumni 'Cat Chats](#), an opportunity to learn about Northwestern via a wide range of alumni perspectives. These Alumni Conversations are part of our broader 'Cat Chats program, which also gives prospective students the option to connect with [current undergraduates](#). All of these 'Cat Chats are one-on-one conversations held online, and students can indicate specific areas of interest when they register.

For those who are able to visit campus, we'll offer [tours](#) along with 30-minute Admissions & Affordability Q&A's weekdays and select weekend days. We also offer certain school [specific info sessions in person](#), along with three new themed tours: Engineering & Design, Journalism, Arts, and Media (JAM), and Labs, Libraries, and Learning Beyond the Classroom.

For those who can't travel to campus, we host regular information sessions and school-specific sessions online, with a [range of digital experiences](#) accessible on our website and [YouTube channel](#).

While we don't treat demonstrated interest as a tally of touchpoints that carries weight in our review process, we do value connections with students. We also see engagement with our on-campus and online programs as a way for students to sharpen their sense of how their vision for college aligns with Northwestern.

As always, you can find your [regional team's contact information](#) on our website, as well as [resources for counselors](#). Please don't hesitate to reach out—we are always eager to partner and support the important work you do.

Thanks for carrying on that important work, and best of luck with the academic year ahead.

Warmly,



Liz Kinsley, PhD
Dean of Undergraduate Admission

Highlights:

- New first-year & transfer students March through the Arch
- Welcome, President Mung Chiang and Provost Erik Luijten
- New \$625 million campaign raises funds for student scholarships and support
- Check out our new Ryan Field—the first NFL-type college football stadium
- New AI major is available to all undergrads
- The Garage is *Time's* #1 university incubator
- We remain test optional; see FAQs.
- Read about financial aid and fee waivers
- Register for Alumni 'Cat Chats
- Explore all digital programming
- Binge our YouTube content