

Dear Colleagues,

Thank you for your partnership throughout this academic year. I'm writing with campus news, Class of 2030 updates, 2026–27 application details, and exciting ways to engage with us this summer. For those of you who prefer top-level takeaways, click [here](#) to skip to the highlights.

## Campus News

Our 168<sup>th</sup> annual Commencement ceremony took place Sunday, June 14, in Chicago's United Center. Actor, producer, and entrepreneur [Sarah Jessica Parker addressed the Class of 2026](#) (sporting the most incredible [purple pumps](#), of course), reminding us that “curiosity is more powerful than comfort.”

Commencement is both a celebration of past accomplishments and new things to come. In that spirit, here are a few campus highlights looking back and ahead:

- In May, our [women's lacrosse](#) team [won the 2026 NCAA title](#) against the University of North Carolina at home on our lakeside Northwestern Medicine Field at Martin Stadium.
- Northwestern's Cohen Lawn held [its official opening](#) last month. Community members celebrated at the lakeside plaza and performance pavilion with live music and refreshments from our new campus hotspot, [Luna's Pub & Grill](#).
- Our [new AI major](#) launches this fall in the McCormick School of Engineering. Students across our six undergraduate schools can access the program as a dual major, whether or not they are pursuing an engineering degree. We also offer an [AI minor](#).
- Northwestern has recently launched its first University-wide fundraising campaign focused on student scholarships and support. The [Forever Shine campaign](#) aims to raise at least \$625 million to open doors and empower students to thrive.
- As part of our ongoing commitment to college access, this summer we will host a [QuestBridge College Prep Scholars](#) conference as well as a [Thrive Scholars](#) Summer Academy session.
- Finally—and significantly—the coming months will bring new campus leadership:
  - [Mung Chiang](#), the president of Purdue University, has been named the 18th president of Northwestern following past-president [Henry Bienen](#)'s generous year of service in an interim capacity.
  - [Eric Luijten](#) will serve as our new provost following [Kathleen Hagerty](#)'s stepping down after six years in the role and over four decades at Northwestern.

## Class of 2030 Updates

We are thrilled to welcome Northwestern's Class of 2030 in September. While we can't yet share any official data about this incoming class, here's a brief recap of this year's review process:

- We received over 54,000 first-year applications, admitting around 7% for a class of ~2,150; we admitted over half the incoming class through Early Decision.
- We've had a bit of waitlist movement this cycle and hope to provide all students still active on our waitlist with a final decision by the end of June. If we need to keep our waitlist open longer, we will contact active candidates with updated timing.
- We are finalizing a fantastic transfer cohort and expect that group to number around 260. We reviewed over 5,000 transfer applications, including early candidates in our new Early Decision Transfer round.

## 2026–27 Application & Testing Details

For the upcoming cycle, students can [apply](#) through the Common Application, Coalition with Scoir, or QuestBridge. Our Early Decision (ED) deadline will remain November 1, and our Regular Decision (RD) deadline is January 4.

Our financial aid deadlines are December 1 for ED and February 1 for RD candidates who wish to receive financial aid information with their admission decision.

Application fee waivers are available to ensure students from every financial background can apply. Read more about fee-waiver eligibility [here](#).

Northwestern is test-optional for the 2026–27 admissions cycle. Please refer to our [FAQs](#) for guidance on self-reporting scores, superscoring, and other additional information.

## Ways to Engage Over the Summer: Visits & Digital Programming

[Registration](#) for campus visits is now available through mid-September. Visitors can also access self-guided tours via QR code in the front vestibule of our [Segal Visitors Center](#), which is open even when the building’s lobby is closed.

In addition to traditional campus tours, we offer Admissions & Affordability Overviews and themed tours, including “Labs, Libraries, and Learning Beyond the Classroom,” “Engineering and Design,” and “Journalism, Arts and Media.” More information on those options can be found on our [website](#).

We also want to make Northwestern accessible with a range of connection points for students who can’t visit:

- Students can explore dynamic digital opportunities on our [website](#) and [YouTube channel](#), including school-based programs, virtual panels, and our Applied Learning video series.
- Our new [Ambassadors Platform](#) invites direct messaging with student and alumni ambassadors.
- Northwestern ’Cat Chats allow for one-on-one Zoom conversations with members of our community. Chats with [current students](#) run through the summer and [alumni](#) ’Cat Chats will resume this fall.

We are always launching new online programming around various topics and want to make sure your students learn about these opportunities—to that end, please encourage your students to complete our [detailed inquiry form](#) so we can personalize our communications as best as possible.

As always, you can find your [regional team’s contact information](#) on our website, as well as [resources for counselors](#). We look forward to staying connected and partnering in support of your students and families.

We’re grateful for everything you do. Have a restful summer!

Warmly,



Liz Kinsley, PhD  
Dean of Undergraduate Admission

## Highlights:

- **54,000+** first-year applications; admit rate **~7%**; incoming class **~2,150**
- **Waitlist:** a bit of movement; hope to provide final decisions by end of June
- Women's Lacrosse are **NCAA Champs!**
- New **AI major** (Fall 2026)
- **Mung Chiang** named 18<sup>th</sup> Northwestern President
- See application **deadlines** & **fee waiver** options
- We are **test-optional** for 2026–27; FAQs **here**
- Connect on campus: summer **tour schedule**
- Connect online: **digital programming**
- Engage with our **Ambassadors Platform**
- Find your **regional admissions contact**