

February 2021

Mail Name and Sp Name | Address 1 Address 2  
City, State Zip

Dear \*|Name - HH Salutation|\*:

Last year I called on the entire Nebraska Wesleyan University community—students, faculty, staff, alumni, parents and friends—to respond to 2020’s challenges with creativity, generosity and determination. You and your fellow Presidents Society members offered much-needed stability in the face of uncertainty through your continued support. Thank you so much for your devotion! I have unwavering optimism for the future because you are helping us keep our core values—**Personal Attention to Students, Stewardship, Excellence, Community, Diversity, Liberal Arts**—at the forefront of our mission here.

#### **Personal Attention to Students**

Every single member of the NWU community did their part to make Fall 2020 a success. Faculty and students creatively responded to new classroom dynamics with innovative teaching and learning methods. Performing arts students let their talents shine in outdoor, physically distant and virtual performances. All 21 of our athletics teams were able to practice and 4 competed in American Rivers Conference (A-R-C) play. (Our other fall sports will compete in a spring season.) Your support bolstered the experience of every NWU student!

#### **Stewardship—COVID Response with Empathy**

Careful stewarding of our human and financial resources is helping us maintain a signature Nebraska Wesleyan experience. Led by the Board of Governors and The Presidents Society, alumni and friends have already invested more than \$460,000 in our COVID-19 Response Fund. What an amazing response! Thank you so very much for your generosity—it provides new technology for effective teaching, support for students in quarantine and isolation, additional scholarships for students whose families have lost income, and so much more. Your generous response to this awful pandemic means we can attend to NWU’s long-term financial health while making important investments now in the physical, emotional and financial well-being of our students, faculty and staff.

#### **Excellence and Community—Strategic Planning**

This fall Nebraska Wesleyan will implement a new strategic plan. Our strategic planning committee has worked hard since early 2020, with input from faculty, staff and alumni, to visualize NWU’s needs and hopes for the future. This plan will guide us for the next few years and lay the groundwork for decades ahead. I’m enthused to be able to share more details with you in coming months. For now, four exciting themes are emerging: Academic Innovation, Engaged Belonging, Elevated Community and Transformational Relationships.

We plan to enhance the physical excellence of our campus to align better with the academic excellence that is so well-known here. Wouldn't it be wonderful if every building on campus received a tangible improvement or refresh? We'll focus on innovation in teaching and learning (as we look forward to adding two master's degree programs—Master of Social Work and Master of Athletic Training). We'll enhance our commitment to serve our University Place neighbors and build even stronger relationships within Lincoln and Nebraska. I am confident that the foundations rooted here will serve our community well and ultimately radiate throughout the world.

Wherever you live, you are a valued member of the NWU community. This spring, join us for livestreams of NWU athletics events at [nwusports.com](http://nwusports.com). Please accept my invitation now to attend one of our Presidents Society virtual conversations. I'm excited to share the state of affairs at your beloved NWU with you there, and to provide a sneak peek into the new strategic plan. \*|Watch/Please|\*

### **Diversity**

Nebraska Wesleyan is not shielded from the social and political issues facing the U.S. Just the opposite—universities like ours are intended to be forums for debate, places where students can develop their voices and better understand one another's experiences. We encourage these difficult conversations because we know diversity is a source of strength. As you individually may choose to support theatre, athletics, study abroad and service-learning opportunities, please know that you collectively make it possible for every Nebraska Wesleyan student to encounter others with varying beliefs, backgrounds and life experiences throughout their NWU education. What an essential foundational element for their entire life's journey!

### **Liberal Arts**

Our unwavering commitment to a robust liberal arts curriculum sets us apart. We are rightfully proud of how we help prepare our students for the experiences that lie ahead of them. As they integrate these "habits of the mind"—intellectual curiosity, critical thinking, creativity, respect for history, and effective communication and dialogue skills—they will always have an impressive arsenal at hand!

As Franklin D. Roosevelt, our 32nd President, said, "Democracy cannot succeed unless those who express their choice are prepared to choose wisely. The real safeguard of democracy, therefore, is education." I know that our mission is more essential than ever as we help develop global citizens who can act with personal conviction that is based on truth and rooted in justice.

Your ongoing support of Nebraska Wesleyan makes a difference in day-to-day campus life now, and in the ways our alumni will impact the world for years to come. I hope you and your loved ones can sense the optimism I feel so abundantly on campus today.

With hope and confidence,



Darrin Good  
President