



A letter from the MUWAA President

LET US RISE TO THE OCCASION

Fellow alumni,

I have wanted to reach out for the better part of the week, but struggled to find words that would resonate with everyone. While each of you are personally impacted by current events, relating to that impact will be unique for all.

My experiences do not compare to yours, and I do not pretend to understand what anyone else is feeling or going through. But I want to tell each and every one of you that I see you, I stand with you, and I offer myself to you in whatever way you might need: an ear to listen, a shoulder to lean on, a voice to lift in support, a friend who loves and respects you.

I am grateful for the service, commitment, and compassion of those who serve on all of our MUWAA Committees. This week I have leaned on our Diversity and Inclusion Committee for guidance. With their support, the MUWAA Board is committed to continuing the dialogue on equality among our alumni and students. Read D&I statement [here](#).

Our nation is in the midst of an uprising, and while the losses we are witnessing are overwhelming, I have hope that we will see meaningful, action-filled change emerge. Let us move toward true equality and equity for all. These cracks will not cause us to crumble, instead they are letting in the light that will lead to growth.

The Long Blue Line is actively working to embrace and honor the full spectrum of our W Family. I encourage you to lift your hearts, voices, thoughts and prayers in support of equality, today and every day.

I hope you will also join me in taking action to strengthen the positive impacts of our Alumni Association on our students, our community, and The W. I want to share our plans for action and invite you to help us with our goals of being more inclusive. Read Association plan [here](#).

A key to this plan will be increased visibility of our alumni of color within the ranks of Chapter leadership, Committee roles, Board directorships and the elected positions of Board Secretary, Treasurer and President-elect. We all know someone we should encourage to get involved.

Here are a few ways you can take action to support the Association's initiatives.

1. Join the MUWAA. We need your voice and your support with these efforts.
2. Actively participate in your local Chapter, Constituency Group, or start your own today: <https://longblueline.muw.edu/alumni/chapters>
3. Support Foundation funds like these focused on diversity initiatives, minority scholarships, and educational programming or events by donating here: <https://longblueline.muw.edu/give>
 - **Black Alumni Fund**- for alumni programming and initiatives
 - **University Impact Award for Diversity and Inclusion**- \$1000 annual award
 - **G. Halbert UPLIFT scholarship**- student scholarship benefitting an African-American male from Lowndes County
 - **Diversity and Inclusion Fund**- to provide D&I educational programming on campus as proposed by the University's Diversity and Inclusion Committee

I plan to update you on our progress throughout the year, and I urge you to reach out to me at any time. May we be "Blessed With Light" during these times and do our best to share that light with others.

Sincerely,



Rebecca Rogers
MUWAA President
Class of 2000