

Dear University Community,

I hope this message finds you well and filled with excitement as we begin a new academic year at UW-River Falls.

A Warm Welcome

To our new students, faculty and staff, welcome to the Falcon family! You are joining a community that [values](#) things like academic excellence, innovation, inclusion and caring. For those of you returning, welcome back! Your dedication and passion are what make our university a special place.

Invitation to Engage

Over the coming days and weeks, I encourage you to take advantage of the numerous opportunities that UWRF will offer to engage, reconnect and build new relationships. This year also marks our [150th year](#) as an institution! Many exciting celebrations are planned, including an employee medallion hunt and several special [Homecoming](#) events for everyone, including students, their families and our Falcon alumni. Be sure to visit the [events calendar](#) for the many ways to participate and have fun.

Resources Available

- **Student Resources:** We want **every** Falcon to succeed at UWRF! Find out more about the resources we offer for student success at: <https://students.uwrf.edu/>.
- **Employee Wellbeing:** [Human Resources](#) and the [Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning](#) offer a wide range of supports to our faculty and staff. Our [Employee Assistance Program](#) also offers an array of helpful life management tools.
- **Your Mental Health Matters:** The start of a new semester can be both exhilarating and challenging. We believe that taking care of your mental health is just as important as your physical health and your academic success. [Student Health and Counseling](#) is here for you, as well as 24/7 support through [Mantra](#).

Be sure you are checking your uwrf.edu email regularly. In the coming days, you can also expect important emails from my office on our commitment to freedom of expression and protecting everyone's First Amendment rights, as well as on campus safety and emergency preparedness. Additional information also is forthcoming from the Dean of Students on student mental health and other resources.

Chancellor Transition

For those of you who haven't yet heard, I will soon be retiring and handing over leadership to our incoming interim chancellor, [Mike Martin](#) who I have known professionally for 30 years. You will be in good hands!

I am so grateful for the past three years that I have had the honor to serve this great institution. I am proud of all that we have accomplished together. Going forward, please feel free to reach out to

interim chancellor Martin, as he will continue to ensure that our office is here to support you every step of the way.

Remember, once a Falcon, always a Falcon!

Warm regards,
Maria Gallo, Chancellor