



Office of the President

August 3, 2016

Dear Marshall University student:

Welcome to the fall 2016 semester at Marshall! Having gone through my first summer in Huntington, I am very anxious and excited to see the beginning of the new school year at Marshall. I hope that you are likewise excited and ready for the fall semester.

During the summer, we hired a new vice president for student affairs at Marshall. His name is Cedric Gathings, and I am confident that he is going to bring a new perspective and a new energy to Student Affairs. Vice President Gathings, Provost Gayle Ormiston, and I are committed to furthering a campus environment that is conducive to the intellectual, social, professional, and ethical development of our students.

As you come back to campus this fall, we are developing some campus activities that will give you a chance to react to some of the national unrest that has occurred over the summer. As stated in the Marshall Creed, we are committed "to defending individual rights and exercising civic responsibility." It is furthermore understood that the tension in our political system, the national and international armed violence, and the constant feeding of alarming information in the news and social media has created an uneasiness in the minds of many people. By giving you a chance to attend forums, public discussions, and other events on campus, we hope to assuage any uneasiness you may have and to assure you that Marshall University will be a voice for respect and civil discourse.

In closing let me say that we are proud that Marshall is an educational community, an open community, a civil community, a responsible community, a safe community, a well community, an ethical community, a pluralistic community, a socially conscious community, and a judicious community. As President, I will work hard to make sure that we are true to these declarations in the Marshall Creed and that we continue to embrace our students as part of the Marshall family.

Best wishes for a successful fall semester.

Sincerely,



Jerome A. Gilbert  
President

**WE ARE... MARSHALL.**