

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Rich with Purpose and Shared Vision



June Roush, WALSAA President

Dear Alumni and Friends,

As summer settles in across Wisconsin, I'm reminded how much can grow when we simply come together. Recently, I had the opportunity to gather with leaders from WALSAA, CALS, and the Wisconsin Foundation and Alumni Association (WFAA) at the Memorial Union Terrace—a place as iconic as the connections formed around its colorful tables.

While the setting was relaxed, the conversation was rich with purpose and shared vision. Dean Glenda Gillaspy and Curt Lauderdale from CALS, Ayana Blair and Annie Engebretson from WFAA, and the executive team from WALSAA reflected on how we can more effectively support CALS students, faculty, and programs—now and into the future.

Some of CALS' most pressing and promising priorities include:

- **Historic Enrollment Growth** – CALS is preparing to welcome more than 800 new students this fall—one of the largest incoming class in its history. It's a milestone that reflects the college's relevance, reputation, and reach.
- **Expanded Mental Health Services** – CALS students access mental health services at significantly higher rates than their peers across campus. Yet currently, only a 50% counselor position is available. A full-time, dedicated mental health professional is a vital need for student well-being and success.
- **CALS Student Center in Ag Hall** – A vision is underway to create a dynamic student-centered space in Agricultural Hall. This would give students a place to study, collaborate, and connect—right in the heart of their academic home.
- **Wisconsin Rural Scholars Program** – This impactful program is training a new generation of rural health leaders, many of whom come from the communities we call home. Learn more: ruralpartners.wisc.edu/wisconsin-rural-scholars-program/

Our conversation also explored how WALSAA can work in alignment with WFAA to leverage our existing funds in ways that create broad, lasting impact. Whether it's supporting new initiatives or elevating our visibility with current students to build lifelong alumni engagement, there's tremendous opportunity ahead.

CALS' future will be shaped not only by institutional investment, but by personal stories, alumni pride, and meaningful partnerships. The willingness of our WALSAA community to connect others who might support these initiatives is a powerful tool—and one I encourage us all to use.

This moment marks more than progress—it marks purpose. I left our meeting inspired and deeply grateful for the collaboration and trust among CALS, WALSAA, and WFAA. Together, we are shaping a future worthy of the legacy we've inherited.

Let's keep building it—one conversation, one connection, one commitment at a time.

On, Wisconsin!

June Meixelsperger Roush



L-R (back): Ayana Blair, Cathy & John Brunnquell, Curt Lauderdale, (front) June Roush, Dean Glenda Gillaspy, Jane Hillstrom