

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Talent and Commitment



Jane Hillstrom, WALSA President

Someone wise said, "If you want something done, ask a busy person to do it." The talent and commitment of WALSA's board of directors continues to inspire me.

- Board members attended the CALS New Student Welcome on Tuesday, September 1st at Allen Centennial Gardens.
- The Student Engagement Committee is preparing for our Scholarship Reception at Carson Gulley on September 24th. The board is taking a campus tour and reviewing our governance structure that same day.
- The Events Committee is coordinating food, fun, music, and Bucky for Fire-Up on October 24th at The Orpheum while the Marketing Committee gathers sponsorships and silent auction items.
- The Executive Committee is working with the Wisconsin Foundation & Alumni Association to update agreements while simultaneously recruiting new board and committee members.

In April, I had the opportunity to judge the Snack Product Development Challenge, part of the 2026 Wisconsin Rural Scholars Program at CALS. This program brings bright high school seniors and their teachers to campus for a pre-college experience. For the Challenge, students worked in small groups

to develop a new snack product. Their creativity imagined products such as a cranberry-cherry snack chip. During the five-day residency, the students also visited research labs, Babcock Hall, Camp Randall, and created visual road maps showing their life path. Notably, they included their emotional well-being as part of their journey.

One student wrote, "Honestly, I was most impressed with how welcoming people were, from faculty to students. It showed the sense of community that exists in CALS. While the school is big (for us) it feels like everyone has a home here."

Every success we celebrate is the result of dedicated people working together with a shared purpose: to advance the CALS community. To me, being involved with students and everyone on campus has felt incredibly rewarding. If you are interested in getting more involved with WALSA to support the College, let us know. You won't regret giving back to the College that has given us so much.

I hope you will celebrate with us at Fire-Up! WALSA is positioned to do great things, and your support at our biggest fundraiser helps make that possible.

On Wisconsin!