Voices from the Community

Thoughts from the community on the selection of Katherine A. Rowe as William & Mary's 28th president

“Dr. Rowe is a wonderful choice to lead William & Mary. Taylor leaves a strong foundation upon which to build, and I look forward to supporting and working with Katherine as she moves the university forward.”

— Chancellor Robert Gates ’65, former U.S. Defense Secretary

“The Board is thrilled to make this announcement and welcome Katherine Rowe to the William & Mary family. Katherine is a widely respected and recognized leader, teacher, researcher, scholar, innovator and entrepreneur, and she is a passionate and articulate advocate for the importance of the liberal arts and their critical intersections with technology and research.

We had a difficult mission: to find a leader to whom Taylor Reveley could pass the reins. In Katherine Rowe, we have found the ideal person to lead William & Mary at this point in the university’s history.”

— Rector Todd Stottlemyer ’85
“At every turn, the committee found that Katherine’s experience and expertise mirrored William & Mary’s strengths and the direction we heard from the community that William & Mary needs to head in the future. We truly believe she will be a transformational leader for this university.”

— Thomas Watkins III ’74, Vice Rector, chair of the Presidential Search Committee

“When you think ‘data science,’ you probably don’t think ‘Shakespearean scholar. But that’s what is so exciting about Dr. Rowe and developments in the digital humanities, which is already a point of pride at William & Mary. Katherine is comfortable in a world of possibilities, where barriers between science and the humanities have fallen away.”

— Sue Hanna Gerdelman ’76, secretary of the Board of Visitors and chair of the For the Bold fundraising campaign

“I look forward to Katherine Rowe’s presidency with great enthusiasm and confidence. A proven leader, Dr. Rowe understands American higher education and appreciates the vital role played by historic universities rooted in the liberal arts. She knows as well that we must be intensely entrepreneurial these days, open to new possibilities and willing to change. She has a keen appreciation for the part that alumni, in league with the campus community, play in William & Mary’s progress.

“Along with the Tribe writ large, Helen and I warmly welcome Katherine and her husband Bruce to William & Mary. The President’s House, with its three resident ghosts, awaits their arrival.”

— Taylor Reveley, William & Mary President

“Katherine Rowe is a thoughtful and strategic thinker. She is a highly respected scholar and administrator who has demonstrated a commitment to diversity and inclusive excellence. As the university continues building upon the work to make William & Mary a welcoming place where all faculty, staff and students are valued and respected, Katherine will be a champion in moving us forward.”

— Chon Glover, W&M Chief Diversity Officer
“Katherine is a change leader with endless energy. Her legacy at Smith will be felt for years to come — new majors, new processes and new programs. William & Mary will be in great hands under her leadership.”

— Kathleen McCartney, Smith College President

“Katherine recognizes what William & Mary’s COLL Curriculum affirms: that the liberal arts with its key questions, critical thinking and ability to communicate across disciplines puts students at an advantage, whatever fields they enter after graduation. I look forward to working with her.”

— Suzanne Raitt, chair of the English department and faculty representative to the Presidential Search Committee

“This is exciting news for William & Mary and its students. Dr. Rowe’s commitment to student achievement and her enthusiasm for the liberal arts are evident. I was impressed with the quality of her ideas and her dedication to promoting and sustaining the inclusive environment that our campus needs. I am optimistic that she will continue to build on the success of our university and carry us forward.”

— Laini Boyd ’18, senior class president and student representative to the Presidential Search Committee

“All of us at The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation welcome President Rowe and her family, and I personally look forward to working with her as we move our institutions forward and find new and innovative paths for enhanced collaboration.”

— Mitchell B. Reiss, president and CEO of The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation