

# BENNINGTON COLLEGE

**TO: Faculty and Staff**

**FR: Alan Kornberg '74, Chair of the Board of Trustees**

**April 20, 2019**

**As Mariko Silver shared moments ago, she has been selected to become the next President and CEO of the Henry Luce Foundation. Accordingly, she will step down as President of Bennington College effective July 1, 2019.**

**I am very pleased to announce that yesterday the Board of Trustees unanimously appointed Isabel Roche to serve as Interim President while a Board-appointed committee conducts a search for Mariko's successor. As part of our efforts to make this transition as seamless as possible for faculty and staff, I invite you to join me on Monday, April 22 at 12:00 pm in Tishman to further discuss this transition and to answer any questions that you may have.**

**We are enormously grateful for the contributions that Mariko has made in her six years at Bennington. Her zeal for institutional innovation, relationship-building, and problem-solving has made us stronger and well positioned for the future. I am confident that Mariko's impact on the College will be felt for years to come.**

**And we are enormously grateful for Isabel's leadership. She is a longtime member of the Bennington family and an accomplished scholar, teacher, and administrator. Isabel has played an integral role in nearly every institutional achievement we have made over the past eight years and she will usher us into our next chapter with deep expertise, insight, and wisdom. Notably, Isabel helped launch Poetry at Bennington and she has secured multiple multimillion-dollar gifts from major individual and institutional supporters of the College. She also works closely with Senior Vice President Paige Bartels on the College's partnerships agenda, creating important opportunities such as the Lortel Fellowships and the Middlebury College relationship.**

**As most of you know, Isabel came to Bennington College as a faculty member in 2002. She was**

appointed Dean of the College in 2011, and Provost and Dean in 2015. A scholar of French literature, Isabel is the author of *Character and Meaning in the Novels of Victor Hugo* (published by Purdue University Press in 2006) and has published a number of scholarly articles on the 19th-century novel and French Romanticism. She comes to the role of Interim President with the depth of knowledge and experience needed to sustain and expand the College's recent accomplishments. We have been honored to have Isabel here as a teacher, advisor, administrator, and leader, and we are fortunate indeed that she has agreed to serve as Interim President of Bennington College.

I look forward to seeing you at the meeting on Monday. This will be a session specifically for Bennington faculty and staff, and an opportunity for us to answer your questions and illuminate the process for the coming months.