

**Message from the President**  
**Bennington College**  
**June 14, 2021**

Dear Bennington Community,

I am thrilled to announce that our next Provost will be Dr. Maurice Hall.

Maurice is currently serving as the Dean and Professor for the School of the Arts and Communication at The College of New Jersey. He brings deep academic experience, a passion for our mission and pedagogy, and a strategic perspective. As the chief academic officer of the College, Maurice will be a visible, engaged, and active champion of faculty and students. I'm looking forward to working closely with Maurice on the next phase of Bennington's legacy, and ensuring we are preparing students to be able to take on the most urgent problems facing the world, and to build meaningful, satisfying lives. Maurice is passionate about travelling to new countries and engaging with new cultures, especially with his children; he enjoys good conversation with good friends around good food; and he has a deep appreciation for theater and other performing arts.

"I have always been aware of Bennington as an extraordinary institution that produces graduates who are literally game changers on the national, cultural and social landscape," said Maurice. "It is a privilege to join this exceptional community, and I look forward to working with President Walker and with my new colleagues to build an even more illustrious future at Bennington."

In his current role, Maurice has been instrumental in redesigning and strengthening the school's operation in a number of ways - re-envisioning the school's value proposition, strengthening enrollment, updating and modernizing the overall curriculum, clarifying core competencies, and streamlining the operational budget - among others. Maurice also led the school's fundraising campaign to establish a new, innovative lab space focussed on emerging technology and creative media. Maurice collaborated with his team to redesign the first-year experience, renewing the focus on internships/career preparation, cultural competence and intellectual rigor in both curricular and co-curricular offerings. Additionally, he has been a leader in contributing to diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts on his campus. As co-chair of the Campus Diversity Council, his work has centered on strategic planning and campus-wide projects that include assessing and reviewing all policies for consistency with DEI objectives and completing a series of anti-racist initiatives in response to recommendations from faculty and staff. Maurice also led a year-long project with the faculty focused on decolonizing the curriculum. His experience includes significant emphasis on college-wide shared governance and cross-disciplinary leadership. This work will lend itself well to

Bennington.

Previously, Maurice served as Department Chair for the Communication Department at Villanova University, where he was responsible for overseeing the largest department in the College of Arts and Sciences, supporting approximately 500 undergraduate and graduate students. Maurice's fundraising efforts helped to establish a new, state-of-the-art communication multimedia facility. He worked to extend the global/international component of the department's curriculum by creating, with faculty, three unique international experiences for students including summer course/internship/service-learning experiences in Ghana, West Africa, and Shanghai, China. He has provided consultation on developing Communication specific course experiences at the Danish Institute for Study Abroad (DIS) in Copenhagen, Denmark. Prior to his time at Villanova, Maurice served as Program Development Director, Leadership Academy, at Howard University.

Maurice holds a doctorate in Organizational and Intercultural Communication and a Master's degree in Mass Communication from Howard University. He has a BA, with honors, in Literature from the University of the West Indies. He also holds a Certificate in Broadcast Journalism from the University of Westminster.

The people reporting directly to the Provost will be Dean of the Library Oceana Wilson, incoming Dean of the College and Director of the MFA in Public Action Brian Michael Murphy, incoming Dean of Faculty Sarah Harris, Dean of Research, Planning, and Assessment Zeke Bernstein, Director of the Center for the Advancement of Public Action Susan Sgorbati, Director of the Bennington Writing Seminars Mark Wunderlich, Director of the Prison Education Initiative Annabel Davis-Goff, Director for Budget and Administration Amy Kuzmicki, and Executive Assistant to the Provost and Dean and Faculty Affairs Coordinator Meredith Meurs.

Maurice will begin later this summer. Please join me as we welcome Maurice to the Bennington community!

Warmly,

Laura Walker  
*President*