

7/13/20 corejp



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

July 1, 2020

The Honorable Stuart Patrick  
Mayor, Borough of Glen Ridge  
825 Bloomfield Avenue  
Glen Ridge, NJ 07028

Dear Mayor Patrick,

I hope this letter finds you and your loved ones well amidst our unprecedented times. I write today to let you know that I am both honored and humbled to serve as the ninth President of Caldwell University. As the mayor of Glen Ridge and our neighbor in Essex County, I want you to know you are a critically important part of the exceptional extended community that has shaped this great institution's history. I want to take a moment to introduce myself and let you know that as soon as time allows, I look forward to greeting you in person and continuing to build the relationship between Caldwell University and Glen Ridge.

Although I am new to the University, my connection to the surrounding area is longstanding and, in many ways, I like to think that I am now back home – and I am thrilled. I grew up in Denville, NJ as one of eight children. Our parents instilled in each of us the importance of strong faith, education, community, and service – the very pillars on which Caldwell University was founded. Throughout my educational career I attended Catholic schools, and soon developed a love for Catholic colleges because their commitment to serving students and emphasis on giving back to the community mirrored the ideals of my upbringing. These are the same values my wife and I have worked to pass on to our three daughters.

Now, I am honored to be a member of the Caldwell University family. Although the last few months have found us facing uncertainty and fear, I have found comfort in my faith and in those who lived out their dedication to service, especially those at Caldwell who have labored to serve our community and protect the legacy the Sisters began in 1939. At Caldwell, there has been no shortage of inspirational news and acts of kindness. From our nurses working on the frontlines, to faculty and staff donating personal protective equipment, to alumni and friends generously contributing to scholarships for First Responders and Future Heroes and to the Student Emergency Fund, the true spirit of Caldwell radiates from all those who serve to help others in these trying times. I feel immensely fortunate to be part of this family that constantly prioritizes our students and our mission.

As a first-generation college graduate with over thirty years of experience in higher education, I know that Caldwell is where I am meant to be and I am eager to begin immersing myself in the work of the Sisters of Saint Dominic and the life of the Caldwell University community. While we still face many uncertainties, I do know this, Caldwell University remains true to its mission and vision. Caldwell remains firmly rooted in our Catholic Dominican values and traditions with a mission of transforming students' lives by preparing them to contribute to a just society. I can think of no greater role than that. It is exactly this mission that makes me excited to be President of Caldwell University as we look ahead to all of the wonderful things I know we can achieve together.

I look forward to becoming acquainted with you in the coming weeks and to working together in the near future.

Sincerely,

Matthew Whelan, Ed.D.  
President, Caldwell University