

Dear Class of 2020,

Welcome to Colby!

Your connection to Colby has already begun. You have received countless messages with a lot of valuable information to ensure you are prepared for this amazing journey. As your time on campus draws near, your first impactful on-campus experience as a new Colby student is your orientation to your new home, our values, and our expectations. The orientation program over the next eight days is a comprehensive introduction to life on Mayflower Hill.

Orientation is about developing a deeper understanding of the academic and personal journey you're beginning. It's about initiating conversations on important issues—conversations that will continue in and out of classrooms and will hopefully be lifelong. And it's about connections—meeting people, making friends, and becoming familiar with your new surroundings. You begin with First Class, an introduction to the pursuit of knowledge, because this academic endeavor better prepares you to engage with your faculty members and their way of engaging with you and the curriculum. We invite you to celebrate the surrounding community through C2IT because service learning work exposes you to a range of opportunities to enrich your Colby experience and the lives of others. We begin thoughtful conversations with you about diversity and inclusion, making responsible choices, preventing sexual violence, and building respectful residential communities because these are critically important components in creating and maintaining a safe, collaborative, and intellectually rich campus climate. And we send you on COOT so you'll get to know a group of classmates, be open to what is possible, and to learn more about the beautiful state of Maine.

Ultimately, orientation is designed to show you how to discover and claim the limitless possibilities that Colby offers you and what you can offer to your new community. We are thrilled you are here. Have a great orientation and remember to savor the moments. I look forward to connecting with each of you during your time on campus.

Karlene Burrell-McRae '94

Dean of the College