

## WELCOME BACK FOR FALL

August 31, 2021

Dear MassArt Community,

Welcome back to the Fall semester! I hope you have all had some time to relax and enjoy summer, spend time with family and friends, and recharge for the exciting year ahead.

You've seen a lot of communication recently from offices across campus, sharing important updates and information to help guide your return to campus, whether your "return" will be in person, remote, or hybrid.

I'm writing today simply to acknowledge the challenges we've all experienced since the earliest days of the pandemic, and to say how happy I am to be coming together with you as a campus community, to support one another as we continue to overcome the trepidation some of us might be feeling, and to move forward into a terrific new year.

Preparing for that new year, our campus has been humming with activity these last weeks, from Studio Pre-Semester to Primers' orientation and the incoming class orientation for 493 new undergraduate students, and residence hall move-in this past weekend. And today through Sunday, our 63 new graduate students will be moving into their studios.

My thanks to everyone who worked so hard to plan those complex events and then to carry them out – including Studio Foundation faculty, the Student Development team and their primers and residence hall staff; the JET Office, the Graduate Programs team, Public Safety, Facilities, and the many volunteers from across campus whose generous support was invaluable to making it all happen.

We have so much to look forward to together.

Tomorrow at 10am is our Opening Day event, and the link to the virtual program will be sent out this afternoon. It would be wonderful to see you all there as we kick off this new year!



Mary K. Grant, PhD  
President  
Massachusetts College of Art and Design

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*MassArt is a public, independent institution that prepares artists, designers, and educators from diverse backgrounds to shape communities, economies, and cultures for the common good.*