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FINANCIAL AID: Through its generous financial aid packages, Bates meets 100 percent of students’ calculated financial need.

OPTIONAL TESTING: Bates is a national leader in the test-optional movement; the Bates faculty voted to make standardized testing optional for admission to Bates in October 1984.

Dear Colleagues,

It is my great pleasure to share with you our Bates Class of 2018 profile, which describes an academically strong and diverse group of students. Twenty-one percent are students of color, and another 8 percent are international students. The students of this incoming class hail from 40 states and 23 countries, with 56 percent from public high schools, and 42 percent receiving need-based institutional financial aid. Well-prepared for the rigor of a Bates education, this class will continue our longstanding tradition of academic excellence.

That tradition is balanced with a dedication to offer students a vibrant and well-rounded liberal arts education, qualities that are first in our minds as we pursue three ambitious strategic priorities under the leadership of President Clayton Spencer. Embracing innovative pedagogy and technology as well as strengthening resources for both financial aid and academic support are two initiatives. The third, which we call Purposeful Work, is grounded in the belief that preparing students for lives of meaningful work must include cocurricular opportunities that provide students with deep exploration, reflection and skill building, practitioner-taught courses during our Short Term to join theory with practice; and a highly structured, Bates-specific network of internships, with the goal of providing all Bates students with the opportunity for an employer- or college-funded internship during their four years.

On the last page of this profile, you’ll see new faces on the Bates Admission team—and perhaps a familiar one in David Buckwald, our new Director of Admission. Dave comes to us from Columbia University, where he was Senior Associate Director of Undergraduate Admissions and Director of Engineering Recruitment. Dave is enthusiastic about Bates’ longstanding tradition of inclusivity and academic excellence in the liberal arts, commitment to social responsibility and emphasis on meaningful engagement between students and faculty. He is particularly excited that Bates meets 100 percent of calculated need for all four years and has been a leader in the test-optional admission movement. We invite you to connect with him at dbuckwal@bates.edu.

Please visit bates.edu/admission for more information about our programming for prospective students and their families. In addition, please contact the Office of Admission deans and counselors with questions or comments on behalf of your students, families and colleagues.

From all of us at Bates, best wishes for a rewarding school year!

Leigh A. Weisenburger
Dean of Admission and Financial Aid
“Everything about Bates is enriching and intellectually stimulating. I live, play and study with some of the brightest, most creative students in the world. I have access to a beautiful campus with some truly incredible resources. I go to class with professors who are not only brilliant scholars, but also friendly, funny and encouraging people. A Bates education cannot be reduced or summarized or approximated. It must be lived for four years.”

— Samuel Myers ’16 of Riverton, Wyo., was so inspired by taking a Bates screenwriting class that he’s heading to Prague for a junior semester abroad to study at the prestigious Film and TV School of the Academy of Performing Arts.

“Few colleges have held the principles of inclusion as central to their institutional mission, and for as long, as has Bates. I find it compelling and distinctive to work among so many people who are committed to embodying the principles of diversity and inclusion in meaningful ways. At Bates, the issue is how do we do it, not should we do it. This sense of possibility gives us, as an institution, a great capacity to think creatively, innovatively and collectively about how to move forward.”

— Crystal Williams joined Bates as an associate vice president and the college’s chief diversity officer in 2013. A widely published poet and author who holds degrees from New York University and Cornell University, she is also a professor of English at Bates.

\[\text{bates.edu/admission/the-conversation}\]