

# WHEELOCK COLLEGE

October 11, 2017

Dear Wheelock Community,

I am writing to provide updates as promised on the merger of Wheelock College with Boston University. Wheelock has officially entered into an agreement that, pending the necessary regulatory approvals, Wheelock and BU will merge as of June 1, 2018.

Throughout our conversations, BU President Robert Brown and I have underscored our shared commitment to a smooth transition for all of our community members. The result of this merger will be the new *Wheelock College of Education and Human Development (WCEHD)* as an academic unit within Boston University that will initially remain on the current Wheelock College campuses in Boston and Brookline. The new college will be a merger of Wheelock's current School of Education, Child Life, and Family Studies and BU's School of Education. Other programs at Wheelock will be merged into similar programs at BU. Importantly, BU has agreed to invest resources in the new college to support additional faculty and enhanced programming. The merger of these two longstanding programs offers opportunities to build on the significant expertise represented by the faculties in both institutions and will enhance our ability to have an impact on education and related fields in Greater Boston and beyond. In fact, we believe that BU's Wheelock College of Education and Human Development will be one of the leading colleges of education in the country, focused on clinical practice, scholarship, and community engagement.

While many details remain under discussion, I am happy to share further updates on some of the most important issues. First, I have heard from many current students and families about their concern that they will face a higher cost of attendance once the merger with BU is completed. I want to assure you that the cost of attendance for current Wheelock students at BU will remain at Wheelock levels, with only the same annual percentage increases as BU will charge. In addition, any guaranteed Wheelock financial aid packages will be honored by BU. Current Wheelock students in good standing will transfer into relevant academic programs at BU or complete their current course of study through a teach-out arrangement.

In the coming weeks, we will create a transition process to work out many of the details of the merger. President Brown and I have agreed to a process for transferring tenured Wheelock faculty into faculty positions at BU. Non-tenured Wheelock faculty will be considered on a case-by-case basis for employment at BU depending on program need. Additionally, Wheelock staff will be considered for potential placement in similar positions at BU.

Lastly, I am honored to serve as the Interim Dean of the Wheelock College of Education and Human Development at BU for a period of at least two years following the merger.

President Brown and I are excited for this new chapter for our institutions. WCEHD will reflect the Wheelock College mission to improve the lives of children and their families, and will aspire to be a preeminent college of education and human development in the region and in the U.S. within 10 years.

As I've shared with you previously, I believe this merger is our strongest option for preserving the mission of Wheelock College and the legacy of Lucy Wheelock long into the future, and I am pleased that we have reached this milestone. President Brown and I have discussed our intent to support Wheelock students and alumni during this transition and welcome them as part of the Boston University community. Moreover, we both want to create a college of which our entire community can be proud.

If you have specific questions about the merger process, please do not hesitate to contact me or a member of the Institutional Leadership Team.

I look forward to being in touch when there are additional updates.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David J. Chard". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and "J".

David J. Chard, Ph.D.  
President