

September 2018

Greetings from Montezuma,



With just a few short weeks gone by, another school year is in full swing. First-years are beginning to settle into their new life. They are discovering what it means to express and live their ideals as citizens in a diverse community--more diverse than most anything they have encountered before. Second-years are discovering that leadership isn't easy business. They are grappling with what it means to drive culture by how they exercise their influence. To take charge while bringing others along. New and seasoned faculty and staff alike are bringing their passion to the work of the classroom, experiential education, and residential life. Whether they are directly engaged with students, or providing support to make the UWC-USA experience possible through every manner of labor, this is a 24 hour operation with all of the joys and frustrations that follow. In addition, all of us are focused on strengthening the foundation of UWC-USA so that we are mission-aligned, financially sustainable, and seizing the opportunity to contribute to this special place while recognizing and receiving its gifts.

And by all of us, I mean all of us. Our October board meeting is coming up. We will be focused on what our goals will be over the next several years, and on a strategy for meeting them. UWC-USA faces as many challenges as it does opportunities, and any strategy going forward needs to reflect that. Now that we've achieved some stability, and know what we need to do to strengthen our foundation, it's time to think forward and to ask ourselves the hard questions about our prospects as we move toward 50. You'll be hearing more following the board meeting. Our future depends on an engaged alumni body, which is why I am so grateful to those who took the time to complete the alumni engagement survey. (Shout out!) It will give us excellent data to help chart the future course of this school.

Finally, I want to leave you with two images. A rare rainy day in Montezuma, with our students joyfully engaging 400 local children in activities that open the world to them. A raucous rehearsal for NAD, with all of the chaotic energy that morphs by showtime into a celebration of diversity that delights and provokes and leaves us smiling. Perhaps these are small things in a world besieged by geo-political and economic shifts that are dizzying. But isn't change what each of us can effect where we are, in whatever position we find ourselves? Isn't change about our choice to make the lives of others better or worse? The vision we all share for a more sustainable and peaceful world gives us energy and purpose in our daily work here in Montezuma. I hope you carry memories from your time here that give you energy and purpose to make a positive difference wherever you are. Thank you for all you do for UWC-USA and the UWC movement.

Warm regards on a chilly day,

Victoria

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