

# A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

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Dear Adler University Community,

Happy New Year! As we begin a new academic term, I want to extend a warm welcome to our students, faculty, and staff, including those joining Adler University for the first time. I also want to take a moment to say how deeply appreciative I am for all that you — and all members of our Adler community — do for the University, and in particular, for our students.

For our returning faculty and staff, I hope you enjoyed the extra days and time off. I think it is important to signal to members of the community that we appreciate them, and this year, we had more time to relax and decompress. Additionally, as we closed out last semester, I very much enjoyed the time we spent together at our winter celebration in Chicago and the receptions in Vancouver, and I am glad we took the time to come together.

January marks both a return and a beginning, bringing renewed opportunity for us to collectively [advance our mission](#). As was covered in the [December town hall](#), we have a lot to be excited about in 2026. Our students and faculty are beginning another semester of critical learning, training, and intellectual exchange. We are also pleased to begin the new year with several administrative leadership updates: We welcome [Sean Corlett to Adler](#) and celebrate the promotion of [Melody Souza to the chief financial officer \(CFO\)](#). Monroe France is serving as a strategic advisor to the president, working on leadership initiatives and a portion of the chief of staff's portfolio. James Patti has transitioned from his interim role to strategic advisor for finance. And, importantly, we continue to move with intention to deliver on our collective goals to deliver on the promise to educate our students and amplify the investments of our alumni. Therefore, as we continue to strengthen the institution, we will continue to provide updates through our various communication channels.

I also want to pause and reflect on a member of our extended Adler community whose influence continues to shape our work. As many of you know, [Eva Dreikurs Ferguson](#) passed away at the end of last year. We continue to extend our deepest sympathies and condolences to her family and loved ones, and we are grateful for her long-standing support of the University over many years. Please note, we will have more time to honor her legacy and contributions. [Her work and words](#) serve as an important reminder of who we are as an institution. At Adler, we live and work in community, educating future leaders and advancing Adlerian practice and learning grounded in social interest and collective well-being. Sustaining this work requires a strong institutional foundation, and I am grateful to be part of a University community committed to that shared responsibility.

This term, the University remains focused on strengthening its capacity to support long-term vitality and effectiveness through financial stability, fundraising, leadership development, innovation, co-creation, and shared responsibility. As I stated at the recent town hall, our future, the University's future — from enrollment to fundraising, academic vitality, and student success — is in our collective hands. We are all ambassadors for Adler, and our contributions are distinctive: students advancing their research and learning; faculty sharing knowledge and practice; staff ensuring student-entered and responsive operations; leadership in reimagining an institution that is future-ready, sustainable, and fiscally thriving; alumni building new paths across many domains; and partners extending and amplifying our impact and reach. We all play essential roles in advancing our shared goals. Together, our efforts position the University to build the academic and organizational capacity that allows our students and graduates to continue to thrive and flourish. Again, thank you for all that you do.

2026 promises a year with new possibilities for the institution. I very much look forward to all that we will do together this term and beyond.

Welcome back and Happy 2026!



Lisa Coleman, Ph.D.  
President  
Adler University



OFFICE OF  
THE PRESIDENT

BCC: All students, faculty and staff