



CHARTERED 1693

**THE COLLEGE OF WILLIAM AND MARY IN VIRGINIA**

**OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT**

**P.O. Box 8795**

**WILLIAMSBURG, VIRGINIA 23187-8795**

**757/221-1693, FAX 757/221-1259**

**Greetings from the President of the College of William and Mary**

It is my pleasure to present William and Mary's Compliance Certification Report as part of the reaffirmation of accreditation by the Commission on Colleges (COC) of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). As the newly elected president, I am proud to affirm and advance William and Mary's mission – to be both great and public. Our story ties closely to that of the nation. The College has served as cradle and wellspring of new world enlightenment, and figured prominently in the birth of ideas that have defined this great democracy.

As one of the nation's premier state-assisted liberal arts universities, we believe that excellence in teaching is the key to unlocking intellectual and personal possibilities for students. Dedicated to this philosophy and committed to limited enrollment, William and Mary provides high-quality undergraduate, graduate and professional education that prepares students to make significant contributions to the Commonwealth of Virginia, the nation, and the world. In recognition, the media have long considered the College the nation's best small public university ranked it first among state institutions in terms of commitment to teaching.

The College was chartered on February 8, 1693, by King William III and Queen Mary II as the second college in the American colonies; it severed formal ties with Britain in 1776. The institution became state-supported in 1906, coeducational in 1918, and achieved modern university status in 1967. Phi Beta Kappa, the nation's premier academic honor society, and the honor code system of conduct were founded at William and Mary. These traditions form a part of the legacy and the challenge for our future: to pursue excellence; to explore, examine, probe, question, and contribute; and to teach and learn in the context of a small, life-changing liberal arts experience.

We have embraced the SACS re-affirmation process as a moment for thoughtful appraisal. We have looked closely at our procedures for planning, budgeting, assessment, and decision-making. In the course of that effort, we have refined approaches to make them more transparent and more explicit. We have been guided by the simple idea that we are most effective when we operate with broad agreement on a clear mission. I believe that you will see the evidence of our efforts in the Compliance Certification and, in particular, in discussions of the Process of Institutional Effectiveness. It is a work in progress. Much has been accomplished, but much remains to be done. Our commitment to the continuing endeavor reflects the College's commitment to quality and to quality enhancement.