



## LOYOLA UNIVERSITY MARYLAND

— 1852 —

Dear Students,

I am absolutely thrilled to welcome you to the 2023-2024 academic year! As the newly elected chair of the department, I am honored to be a part of your journey here at Loyola, and more specifically, within the Psychology Department.

Now that we have successfully navigated “normal” operations, I am excited to continue to fully immerse ourselves in the Jesuit educational experience. COVID-19 will continue to loom, and may constitute our new normal, but I am confident that we are ready to engage in the rigorous, in-person, liberal education you have come to expect from the Psychology Department. Whether you are starting your journey with us, or getting ready to graduate, our faculty are committed to providing you with transformative learning experiences, grounded in high-impact, inclusive practices. We are eager to guide you as you explore and define your intellectual passions and career path.

As you gear up for the semester, perhaps worrying about the details of each of your classes, I want you to zoom out and remember that you are a vital member of our vibrant intellectual community. You and your learning are what brings us joy and direction. Not even a global pandemic, social distancing, or any number of challenges could change that. Using the resilience we’ve recently developed, I encourage you to begin this year with an orientation towards continued growth and presence. Beyond the pursuit of knowledge there’s an opportunity to create positive change. It starts with yourself, and radiates out to your immediate community, and then further out to the reaches of society. Every lecture, assignment, and presentation are an opportunity to polish the skills you will need to lead in a diverse and changing world. **Indeed, the relentless pursuit of knowledge is admirable - using that knowledge for change is Loyola.** While this might seem like a daunting challenge, please know you will not carry this alone. Your faculty, staff, and administrators are working hard to prepare you for the world’s challenges ahead and will be here for you during your training, and after.

I want to re-iterate how humbled and privileged I am to represent you in this new role. I have received so much from being a member of this community, and I think you can too. It's worth mentioning that before coming to Loyola, I had spent approximately three decades in various academic settings, earning degrees in psychology, women's studies, and a doctoral degree in legal psychology. But despite all that previous learning, it has been at Loyola that I've encountered the most enriching and meaningful education. It's simple: the Jesuit educational experience (fueled by the most incredibly dedicated faculty and staff) *just works*. I hope you'll continue to join me in this journey of lifelong learning and engage fully in all that our

department and community have to offer. Please drop by my office any time. My metaphorical door is always open and I am always here for you.

See you soon/Nos vemos pronto,

Dr. Carlucci

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Marianna E. Carlucci, Ph.D.

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