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November 8th, 2019

President Michael Lovell
c/o: Marquette University
1250 W Wisconsin Ave
Milwaukee, WI 53233

Dear President Lovell:

Congratulations on celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Marquette University's Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) and First-Generation Day on November 8, 2019. As a proud graduate of Marquette University and its first EOP class, I speak from personal experience. There is power in having supportive and committed faculty and staff dedicated to providing institutional structures to make first-generation students successful. I am pleased to serve not only as a Member of Congress, representing Wisconsin's 4th Congressional District, which includes my alma mater, but also as one of the co-chairs of the Congressional TRIO Caucus.

As you well know, in 1969, the combined efforts of students, faculty and staff, the belief that Marquette University had both the opportunity and responsibility to make a Marquette education more accessible to low income, first-generation and minority students was born. My good friend and mentor, Dr. Arnold Mitchem, led Marquette's newly created institutional Educational Opportunity Program.

Marquette's EOP was the first program in the nation and has earned a reputation as one of the most distinguished, admired, and respected federal TRIO programs benefiting 14,200 students including over 2,000 alumni. Marquette University's EOP is comprised of five programs: Student Support Services and McNair Scholars for current Marquette students, Upward Bound, Upward Bound Math and Science, and Educational Talent Search which are pre-college services for Milwaukee-area high school students in partnership with Milwaukee Public Schools.

Nationally, only 11 percent of first-generation low-income college students graduate within six years whereas Marquette's EOP program graduates 65 percent of its students—while there is still room for improvement, this program is transforming the lives of individuals and generations to come.

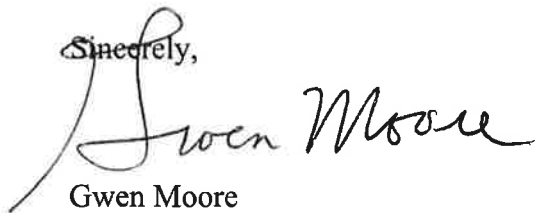
Marquette University continues to make great strides, as it currently enrolls 25 percent students of color, making it the most diverse student population in Marquette's history. This includes 28 percent students of color in its undergraduate program, also the highest in Marquette's history, and 18 percent of the students in its graduate programs are of color, making it the most diverse graduate student body.

Also, Ms. Sara Manjee is the first ever Marquette University Student Government President from the EOP and this is occurring in both the year of EOP's 50th Anniversary and the 100th Anniversary of Marquette's Student Government which is outstanding.

It should be noted that the Council for Opportunity in Education and the Center for First-generation Student Success launched the inaugural First-Generation College Celebration on November 8, 2019. Therefore, on November 8, 2019 Marquette University will celebrate the success of our first-generation students.

I will continue my advocacy for funding and bipartisan support for TRIO programs because of its extreme importance to our educational leadership. On behalf of Wisconsin's 4th Congressional District, myself and my staff, thank you for your leadership and Marquette's commitment to first-generation students!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gwen Moore". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "G".

Gwen Moore
Member of Congress