



ECKERD COLLEGE

CEREMONY OF LIGHTS

Reception of the Class

Marjorie Sanfilippo, Vice President for Student Success

August 14, 2026
McArthur Gymnasium

It is my pleasure and honor to receive you as students of Eckerd College.

As Eckerd students, you will be challenged to stretch your critical and intellectual skills; to grow from encountering new and different people, places, and ideas; and to expand your sense of social and environmental responsibility. You are joining a very special kind of living and learning community and—just as you will be formed by your experiences here at

Eckerd—you will have the opportunity, through your participation in campus life, to shape this community in meaningful ways.

Now, I invite you to turn your attention to a special video welcome that we have created for you. [Video plays.]

I ask that our new students please rise if you are able. This Ceremony of Lights expresses through symbolic language and actions the transition that is taking place in your lives at this very moment. Because of your prior achievements, you have reached a personal and educational milestone: You have earned a place in our community of learning.

Upon entering, you found at your seat a College medallion. I now invite you to put on that medallion as a symbol of our commitment to you and your commitment to the Eckerd community.

Congratulations and welcome to the Eckerd College family!