



As president of Alverno College, I am honored to participate in The Presidents' Pledge Against Global Poverty.

Located in Milwaukee, WI, our college grapples with poverty every day, both on a local and global level. Milwaukee's poverty rate is nearly 30% - this includes approximately half of the city's children and ranks ours as one of America's ten most impoverished large cities. While many of our own students are at or below the national poverty level, it is critically important that they learn we are all global citizens and must serve others. The poverty we face in our own city is merely a glimpse into a very large planet where thousands die every day of starvation.

We who are college presidents have a unique opportunity and obligation to practice what we teach and to model the behavior we hope to see in our students. In a world where only one percent of the population has a college degree, it is imperative that all students learn they have been given a privilege, and with privilege comes responsibility. As presidents we can use our position to advocate for what we know is desperately need in our world – compassion and generosity.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mary J. Meehan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each name being capitalized and prominent.

Mary J. Meehan, PhD
President

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT