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As President of Washington & Jefferson College (W&J), I emphasize to students that we are citizens of the world. At the matriculation ceremony, our students learn about W&J's mission to "graduate men and women of uncommon integrity, competence, and maturity...*who are prepared to contribute substantially to the world in which they live.*" Civic responsibility, then, requires that those of us who have more take care of those who, by accident of birth, simply are not as fortunate.

I believe it is important to lead by example, so I participate in the Presidents' Pledge Against Global Poverty as a visible sign of my ongoing commitment to the global community. Having lived in Egypt for several years, I saw first-hand how poverty could cripple a great nation and rob its citizens of their dreams. It brings me tremendous pride to see W&J students choosing to spend their summers and spring breaks traveling to underprivileged countries to give of their time and skills, ultimately broadening their understanding of the world.

As an educator, I've spent my career demonstrating that knowledge can transform lives. But, as Goethe wrote, knowledge without action is meaningless. The Presidents' Pledge provides an opportunity to put words into deeds by giving us direct access to those most in need of our compassion and support.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tori Haring-Smith".

Dr. Tori Haring-Smith  
President