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October 31, 2025

From:
Mayor James Orman
Village of Aurora, New York 13026

Re: Wells College Closure and Emerging Opportunities in Aurora

Dear Mr. Sheehan,

Please allow me to introduce myself. My name is James Orman, Mayor of the Village of Aurora. I previously served as Treasurer of Cayuga County, and have spent my career in public and military service.

As I am sure you are aware, Wells College has now closed, and its absence has had an impact on our community beyond measure. For a village of only about 250 residents, Wells was not only our cultural and economic anchor but also a key part of the identity and rhythm of life here on the east shore of Cayuga Lake.

Recently, we were introduced to Cognita School, a Swiss-based K-12 educational organization that operates more than 100 schools across 22 countries. Cognita has expressed genuine interest in the Wells College campus and, in fact, will be visiting Aurora later this week to explore the possibility of establishing a new educational presence here.

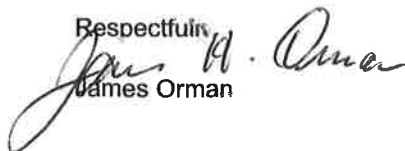
We view this as a very hopeful development—an opportunity to sustain the legacy of education in Aurora and to protect the charitable intent embodied in Wells College's historic mission. In that spirit, we wanted to use this moment both to introduce ourselves to your office and to extend a personal invitation for you to visit Aurora.

Our community has much to show: the Inns of Aurora, a \$300 million investment by Pleasant Rowland, which has restored historic properties and revitalized our hospitality and cultural life; MacKenzie-Childs, a renowned national artisan brand headquartered here; and an extraordinary natural setting on the shores of Cayuga Lake. Together, these assets demonstrate both the enduring vitality and the potential of our small village.

We would be honored to host you for a visit at your convenience to discuss the future of Wells College, the continuity of its charitable mission, and the community's strong commitment to responsible stewardship of its legacy.

Thank you for your time and for your continued service to New York's nonprofit and educational institutions.

Respectfully,


James Orman

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