

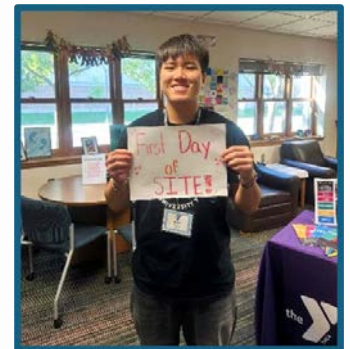


May 30, 2026

Dear University Y Community Members,

2026 has proven to be a year of many transitions and wonders, requiring the University YMCA to remain quick-thinking and adaptable for our college student participants, community, and beyond. I believe that all generations since 1887 have likely felt this way at some point and that the staff, students, alumni, and friends have always held the mission of the UY steady through turbulent times. Through all this, University Y has not only held steady but has also extended its reach and grown its connections.

The UY has touched so many generations in our community and beyond; we know how incredibly valuable it is, and that we can always depend upon the activation of our values in the community, especially reaching those who need us the most. Over my 16 years of leadership at the UY, I have sought to understand, identify, seek, and partner so that I can continue to create, embrace, and lift the spirit of service, reflection, and community impact.



It is no exaggeration to say that the UY is flourishing! Our numbers soared from serving 125 students in the 2024-25 academic school year to 140 this year. We have expanded programming in many directions to partner with teachers, principals, out-of-school time coordinators, public and mental health leaders, foundations, colleges, and many others — all in a collaborative effort to ensure that the community continues to be served to the best of our ability.



The period from 2025 to 2026 has been a time for building bridges. As Amran Yusuf, one of our UY student leaders, shared with me, “Patti, the students *are* the bridges.” I wholeheartedly believe that to be true, and one of the greatest dimensions of the UY is seeing the many directions and impact our community has, well beyond higher education into their careers, communities, and lifework. Recently, our UY proudly became nationally known through the Interfaith America Team Up Project as one of the “Best in America.” This honor and

recognition demonstrate the creative and transformational bridges being built between people, places, and things.

Scan here to view a video showcasing our involvement in this special project:



The UY lives out the idea of “the power of yet” — the idea that with time, respect, and partnerships, we can continue to strive and that pushing through our growth can help us become a source of hope for others. Although 2026 has challenged us in many ways, it has also ignited our ability to think quickly on our feet, to embrace, lift, and launch our values of belonging and inclusion.



We could not be more grateful for your continued support, which is truly the wind that lifts our sails each day we seek to serve. Thank you for adding to the rich tapestry that makes our UY what I like to call #UYriffic!

In partnership and with deep gratitude,

Patti Neiman

Patti Neiman, M.A.
University YMCA Director