

The Alumni Association of  
Case Western Reserve University

# DESTINATION WEEKEND



**Joy K. Ward** is the Provost and Executive Vice President of Case Western Reserve University. Renowned for her creativity, strategic vision, and focus on student experiences, she is also a professor of biology in the College of Arts and Sciences, where she previously served as dean.

Currently, Ward is leading an initiative to add 100 new faculty members who will collaborate on addressing some of society's most pressing challenges. She is also overseeing the planning of the university's \$300 million Interdisciplinary Science and Engineering Building, designed to support groundbreaking research. Ward is committed to advancing artificial intelligence in ethical ways and is championing an initiative to promote civil discourse at the university, striving to position it as a

model for open-mindedness, active listening, and critical thinking.

As dean, Ward grew research, fundraising, and educational activities, securing record donations for the arts, humanities, and sciences. She launched the Expanding Horizons Initiative with over \$8 million in donor support to foster student-faculty research collaborations and led the Experimental Humanities Initiative, funded by the Mandel Foundation, to bridge the humanities with science and technology.

Ward played a key role in opening the second phase of the Milton and Tamar Maltz Performing Arts Center and helped launch a \$60 million initiative to advance mental health research and care, strengthening the university's national impact.

As a researcher, Ward is internationally recognized for her research on plant responses to rising carbon dioxide and climate change.

She earned her B.S. from Penn State University and her master's and PhD from Duke University.