



Office of the President  
One Willard Avenue  
Houghton, NY 14744  
585.567.9310  
[www.houghton.edu](http://www.houghton.edu)

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I am choosing to participate in The Presidents' Pledge Against Global Poverty as a result of several recent visits to the West African country of Sierra Leone where current Houghton students, faculty, and alumni continue a college tradition of engagement with that country that began in the 1880's. I saw Sierra Leone educators seeking to improve themselves and the future opportunities of their students with a courage, determination, and hopefulness that seemed impossible in light of the chasm between the magnitude of the need and the paucity of available resources. I am participating in this project for three reasons. First, I want to show solidarity with those educators that I met in Sierra Leone. Second, I see this as an opportunity for stewardship of the resources with which I have been entrusted, but to which I am not entitled. Third, I am hoping that the collective commitment of college presidents can make an impact that none of us could make on our own—both by the causes to which we contribute and the encouragement that we can be to others to join the effort.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Shirley A. Mullen'.

Shirley A. Mullen  
Houghton College