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ONE STEP
AHEAD

Students find success in dual-credit program

IN THIS ISSUE

cover story

8 ONE STEP AHEAD
Students find success
in dual-credit program

spotlights

4 BLOCH SCHOLARS
Program expands to include
50 students

5 LEVELING UP
Donnelly launches esports team

**6 REMEMBERING
DR. JOHN MURRY**
Honoring Donnelly's fifth president

10 ALUMNI HALL OF FAME
Induction of two outstanding alumni

12 SHINE
A night of glamour and grace

14 PRESIDENT'S REPORT
Highlighting the 2022-2023
academic year

18 DONOR ROLL
Gifts received 7/1/2022-
6/30/2023

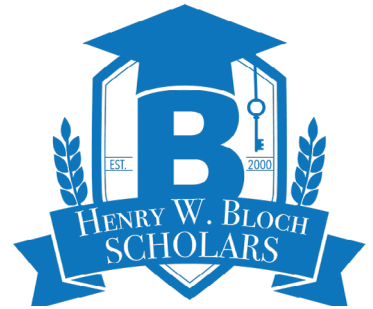
22 DONNELLY FAMILY
Community updates and
Seelos Institute announced



A student makes her way to Donnelly's main academic building for the first day of orientation for new and transfer students.



Bloch Scholars Program expands to include 50 students



Thanks to a generous multi-year investment by the H&R Block Foundation and the Marion and Henry Bloch Family Foundation, the number of Bloch Scholars at Donnelly College will more than double beginning in fall 2024. With this increase, up to 50 Donnelly students per year will have the opportunity to pursue a bachelor's degree debt-free.

The H&R Block Foundation established the Bloch Scholars Program in 2000 as a retirement gift to co-founder Henry W. Bloch. The program provides full scholarships to Kansas City-area students who do not qualify for Donnelly's most competitive merit scholarships, but who are willing to persevere to meet their academic goals.

Bloch Scholars complete an associate degree at Donnelly and then transfer to either the University of Missouri-Kansas City or Rockhurst University to complete their bachelor's degree. In addition to financial support, the Bloch Scholars Program provides students with educational resources, academic coaching and transfer assistance.

Donnelly freshman Sharlin Saucedo appreciates the

support she receives from her peers at weekly Tuesdays Together meetings.

"My favorite part of being a Bloch Scholar is the sense of community," she said. "I really enjoy Tuesdays Together because it makes me feel like I'm part of a big family where we can help and encourage each other."

In addition to increasing the number of Bloch Scholars, the expansion will also increase cross-campus activities that bring together Bloch Scholars from all four participating schools: Donnelly College, Metropolitan Community College, Rockhurst University and UMKC. Donnelly now has a full-time Bloch Scholars Program coordinator on staff.

Freshman Robert Nicolas-Estrada looks forward to remaining connected to Donnelly after he transfers to UMKC to complete a bachelor's degree in biology.

"We represent Donnelly College," he said. "That is a big honor that I am thankful to have." **D**



2022-23 Bloch Scholars celebrate their achievements at a graduation luncheon in May.

PHOTO CREDIT: UMKC STRATEGIC MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS



Students play Apex Legends in between classes in the esports gaming room.

Leveling up: Donnelly launches esports team

After long days attending classes, studying and working part-time jobs, many traditional college students find themselves unwinding by playing video games. Not only is Generation Z more attuned to the digital world, but since the COVID-19 pandemic forced many young people to find more isolated hobbies, competitive gaming has exploded in popularity. Enter the world of electronic sports, or esports for short.

Esports is a form of virtual individual or team competition using video games as the medium instead of physical sports. Colleges are embracing the wave of the future by joining national esports conferences and registering to compete against other schools. Large universities have even hired full-time staff to oversee competitions and host tryouts to place players in varsity or junior varsity levels.

Donnelly's esports team launched in the spring of 2023, giving students an opportunity to embrace this new generation of intercollegiate competition.

Donnelly joined over 240 member colleges and universities in the National Association of Collegiate Esports conference. Because Donnelly's esports team

is not yet developed enough to compete against other schools, students have primarily utilized the new esports gaming room as a free-play gaming space. While actively recruiting team members throughout the year, committed students meet biweekly to discuss team structure and prepare for future competitions.

"I'm getting lots of feedback from students and allowing them to set what they'd like [the team] to look like," said Jacob Marlay, Donnelly academic advisor and esports advisor.

Marlay enjoys overseeing and growing the esports team because it's an opportunity for Donnelly students to experience school pride even without cheering on official Donnelly sports teams.

"That's the traditional college experience – the 'rah-rah', our school's better than your school," he said. "This is our best chance to have that Donnelly pride and actually get to be tested against other schools."

Donnelly's esports team is projected to be approved by NACE for intercollegiate competition eligibility by fall 2024. **D**

Remembering Dr. John Murry



Dr. John Murry, left, and his wife Mary Margaret, right, chaired SHINE 2009, which honored the Benedictine Sisters of Mount St. Scholastica. In the center are Sister Laura Haug, OSB and Sister Paula Howard, OSB, who served as the dean during his tenure.

Donnelly's fifth president, Dr. John Murry, 89, passed away on April 20, 2023. He was respected and loved by faculty, staff and students alike.

Dr. Murry received his undergraduate degree from Rockhurst University and his master's and doctorate from Kansas State University. He and his beloved wife of 66 years Mary Margaret were blessed with four children, 11 grandchildren, six great-grandchildren, one great-great grandchild and many nieces and nephews.

Dr. Murry spent more than 40 years in higher education, including 19 years in various positions at Kansas State University and four years as president of Marymount College in Salina, Kansas. He served as Donnelly's president for 11 years (1987–1998) after being recruited by his predecessor Father Ray Davern to become Donnelly's first lay president. After retiring from Donnelly, Dr. Murry served as interim president of Benedictine College in Atchison, Kansas.

Like most Donnelly students, Dr. Murry had

to work to put himself through college. In a 1997 article from *The Leaven* newspaper, he said, "Students are our primary customers. We need to... treat them with respect and understanding. If they're not here, we can all leave — there's no need for us."

Dr. Murry was also committed to securing the College's future and building its endowment. He led a capital campaign with that goal for the College's 50th anniversary.

According to Mary Spangler, former director of development, "Some college presidents struggle with fundraising, but not Dr. Murry. His authenticity and genuine love for humanity resulted in strong, strategic and impactful philanthropic relationships that continue to benefit students today. He was a development director's dream!"

Donnelly's long-serving Director of Business Affairs Stephen Goceljak remembers that Dr. Murry worked hard to connect the College with businesses and organizations in the surrounding community.

“As Donnelly’s leader, Dr. Murry made sure that everyone in the community knew the story of the College and its mission,” he said.

Over the years, Dr. Murry chaired or served on the boards of many community organizations. He felt particularly honored to have been elected as chair of the National Advisory Council to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. In 2018, Rockhurst University honored him with their Xavier Medal of Honor alumni award for societal contributions. One of his many notable contributions included spearheading his family’s efforts that enrolled over 40,000 people into the national bone marrow donor registry, resulting in 160 lifesaving transplants to date.

As his obituary noted, “Dr. Murry will be remembered for his love of people and endearing sense of humor that made everyone feel respected, heard and loved.”

A former associate described Dr. Murry as “very intelligent, but just a common guy. He used to lay bricks with his dad. He could visit with the president of the United States and fit right in, or he could sit down with a ditch digger and have a bologna sandwich and fit right in.”

Dr. Murry never stopped advocating for Donnelly. His obituary included this final “Note from Dad: If you can’t come to the funeral don’t worry about it, I expect to be talking to the Lord anyway. Don’t send flowers. Instead send money to Donnelly College or to the Benedictine Sisters in Atchison, KS who founded Donnelly, and is one fantastic community of women religious.” **D**



Dr. Murry laughs with Delia Marin '84.

For additional testimonials, visit donnelly.edu/blog. To contribute a remembrance to the blog post, email marketing@donnelly.edu.

Family and former students and coworkers share testimonials

“Dr. Murry led the College during some of its most trying times, but he never gave up on the importance of its survival. His vision for the future of Donnelly was an inspiration to me in the quest to see Donnelly succeed.”

Dr. Ken Gibson, sixth president of Donnelly College

“Dr. Murry was among the kindest and most positive people I have ever met. I cherish his memory and am grateful for his example of service to Donnelly and the civic community.”

Sister Grace Malaney, OSB

“Dr. Murry was more than just the ‘president of Donnelly’ for me. He was a dear friend and mentor who had a profound impact on my life. He was a guiding light who always made me feel like family.”

Delia Marin '84

“I enjoyed walking Donnelly’s halls with Dad. He would greet everybody we passed... I think he wanted me to meet them rather than them to meet me. The Donnelly community was part of his larger family, and he wanted me to appreciate them as much as he did.”

John Murry, Jr., Dr. Murry’s son

“If anything was to be written about him, he would want it known that he was a man of faith and he adored his family and he cherished his friends.... I think he accomplished so much throughout his life because of his love for people.”

Kathleen “Beane” Parker, Dr. Murry’s daughter

“I worked with Dr. Murry for many years as an employee and board member. His easygoing personality and humor put people at ease. He was a great person of faith and was devoted to his family.”

Sister Mary Agnes Patterson, OSB

“The College’s mission was so important to John. He would say that colleges like Harvard and Yale rated themselves by the students they admitted, whereas we rated ourselves by the students we graduated. He also said that we made a difference not only in our students’ lives but in their families’ lives for generations to come.”

Frances Sanders, former dean and vice president of institutional effectiveness

ONE STEP AHEAD



*Students find success
in dual-credit program*

Dominic Ramirez is open to new challenges. Palaw Ri is no stranger to balancing a busy schedule. Both students started at Donnelly full time in the fall of 2023 and have excelled in their studies. They have become accustomed to college life and the higher standard of academic excellence that is expected from instructors. They have gotten involved and utilized the many resources offered. However, there is one major difference between these two students and many of their classmates.

They are both still in high school.

When an opportunity arose near the end of the summer for Bishop Ward High School students to

pilot a variation of Donnelly's College Credit Now dual-credit program, Ramirez and Ri jumped at the chance to be challenged and try something new. Instead of taking college-level courses completely online or taught by high school teachers, the students would walk across the street to take classes in-person on Donnelly's campus.

College Credit Now has been a program at Donnelly for decades. High school students that qualify for the program can earn college credits while completing their high school diploma – ultimately saving them time and tuition costs in their educational journeys. At \$75 per credit hour,



Donnelly's College Credit Now is one of the most affordable dual-credit programs in Kansas City.

So why would two seniors voluntarily sign up to take nearly all college-level courses in their last year of high school? For Ramirez, he found that being challenged in school helps him stay focused on learning the course material.

"At first, I was scared, which was a new feeling," Ramirez said. "School had never scared me. I had never had to ask, 'What if I fail?' I decided to go for it because it was such a good opportunity to get ahead in my college career. I always knew college was the next step. Why not just get started?"

After Ri was also recommended for this pilot program by his counselor and dean at Bishop Ward, he liked the idea of taking in-person classes instead of online.

"I've been able to get a feel of what college is like before I eventually transfer to a bigger university," Ri said. "I can just bring along my credits to finish faster too."

Both Ramirez and Ri are taking five classes on Donnelly's campus and two part-time classes at Bishop Ward. Not only that, but Ramirez is on the Bishop Ward Student Council and a member of the pep club. Ri is a linebacker on the football team and a member of Scholars Bowl. The biggest challenge? Balancing the workload.

"There have been times I've barely had any time to finish assignments, especially on Friday nights," Ri said. "After the Friday night football games, I've had some assignments due on Saturday morning."

While the workload is heavy, Ramirez credits Donnelly for providing campus resources to keep students on track with their academic goals.

"You see TV shows where the professors are horrible and mean," Ramirez said. "But Donnelly professors are amazing. They're going to prioritize coursework and deadlines, but they still care about you as people. They want you to utilize Donnelly's resources like tutoring and their office hours. They don't want you to fail."

One of the biggest differences between high school and college is the freedom college allows its students. In between classes, Donnelly students can meet with instructors, study, hang out with classmates or leave campus altogether. Ramirez and Ri joked that not needing a hall pass to use the restroom during class time at Donnelly was quite a shock at first.

According to Coordinator of Academic Affairs Emily Jacobsen, high school students who qualify for College Credit Now as juniors could potentially finish earning their associate degree from Donnelly at the same time that they graduate with a high school diploma – saving them two years of time and tuition costs.

"[College Credit Now] is a great opportunity because students are... creating lives for themselves earlier and opening up more doors," Jacobsen said.

Ramirez hopes to eventually become a surgeon while Ri sees himself entering the engineering field.

As Ramirez and Ri finish their first semester, Donnelly's leadership hopes this pilot program can be expanded to include more students from any partner high school near Donnelly's campus. Not only have these two students excelled in their studies, but they bring hope to other high school students who want to get one step ahead in life.

"Dominic and Palaw – they're dynamic, they're just superstars," said Dean of the College Lisa Stoothoff. "They're both the perfect students for this... It is an increased workload, but they understand the value of what they've been given and they're not taking it for granted." **D**



Palaw Ri attends the job and internship fair on Donnelly's campus.



2023 ALUMNI HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

Sister Mary Teresa Morris, OSB, RN '77



A Kansas City, Kansas native, Sister Mary Teresa Morris graduated from Wyandotte High School and attended St. Margaret's School of Nursing and Donnelly College before earning her Bachelor of Science in nursing from Northwest Missouri State University and a Master of Public Health from St. Louis University.

A nurse since 1972 and a Benedictine Sister since 1978, Sister Mary Teresa served in hospitals, long-term care facilities and home health settings. She specialized in caring for the poor, the homebound and high-risk infants and children with special needs. During the pandemic, she served as the director of infectious diseases at the Dooley Center, the licensed care facility for the Benedictine Sisters of Mount St. Scholastica.

Sister Mary Teresa has also given back to Donnelly in many ways: teaching in Donnelly's allied health program, serving as interim director of the nursing program and serving as a board member.

"Sister approaches everything she does with precision, intelligence and, most importantly, compassion. She treats the people she serves as she would Christ Himself."

Sister Mary Teresa Morris' nominator

Robert Briscoe '67

Bob Briscoe grew up just down the street from Donnelly. He attended the Cathedral of St. Peter School and Rockhurst High School before coming to Donnelly, where an elective art appreciation class changed his career plans. He went on to earn a bachelor's in economics from Kansas State University and used those skills to become an independent artist.

Bob then pursued his passion for pottery, completing several apprenticeships and establishing multiple pottery studios. He built a national reputation, and his award-winning work has been collected by many museums, including the Smithsonian. His passion for mentoring young artists led him to open his studios not only to fellow potters, but to anyone interested in learning to work with clay. He also co-founded the Saint Croix Valley Pottery Tour and donated partial proceeds to support young artists. The event has inspired 30 similar events around the country.



"A fortuitous decision to take a fine arts class led Bob to a lifetime as a passionate and creative potter and world-renowned professional artist."

Bob Briscoe's nominator



To watch the Alumni Hall of Fame video features from SHINE 2023, please visit youtube.com/donnellyedu

choosing hope

At Convocation this fall, Monsignor Swetland encouraged students to “choose hope.” Before I found Donnelly, that was a challenge for me. Although my father came to the U.S. from Ukraine to give our family a better life, I didn’t always feel optimistic about my future.

Growing up in Oregon, I struggled with a learning disability, selective mutism and ADHD. Even though I had positive role models in school and church, I still lacked confidence when I started taking college classes. I attended state universities in Oregon and Kansas, but I couldn’t express my faith there. I moved to Kansas City looking for a fresh start.

When I learned about Donnelly, this small, faith-based college seemed too good to be true. Inspired by the many people who helped me overcome my speech and learning difficulties, I enrolled in nursing prerequisite classes. The day I was accepted into the practical nursing program was one of the best days of my life.

At Donnelly, the faculty and staff understand that having successful students requires meeting needs beyond the classroom. When I was struggling in my classes, I received free tutoring. When I needed help with tuition payments, the Financial Aid office found me scholarships. When I was hesitant to voice my opinions, my professors encouraged me and showed me respect and grace.

With that support, my confidence spread like wildfire. I now serve as Student Senate president, I volunteer in the campus food pantry, and I tutor science students. When I’m not studying, I work at KU Medical Center assisting with complex-behavior patients. With the skills and faith foundation Donnelly has given me, I am confident I can reach my goal of becoming a psychiatric nurse practitioner.



“When I came to Donnelly College, I learned to choose hope.”

I’m so grateful I found a college that offers students the gift of hope rooted in faith. Please consider donating this holiday season so that Donnelly College can inspire even more students to choose hope.

Wishing you a new year filled with hope,

Stefanie Ambroziak

Stefanie Ambroziak, Class of 2025

To help students like Stefanie realize their dreams, use the return envelope found in this issue of the Digest or visit donnelly.edu/give.



SHINE

FOR DONNELLY COLLEGE

A NIGHT OF GLAMOUR & GRACE

SHINE RAISES \$970,000

A



B



C



D





Want to relive the magic of SHINE? Visit Donnelly's YouTube channel for video highlights.



A Guests celebrate after the fundraising goal was met.

B President Monsignor Stuart Swetland poses with event chairs Terry and John Gillcrist.

C SHINE was held at The Abbott in Kansas City, MO.

D Sarai Thao '24 and Aadesh Biswa '23 share their testimonies during the "Feel Donnelly" show, loosely based on The Phil Donahue Show.

E Guests enjoy the social hour on The Abbott's rooftop space.

F Board Chair Jason Banks introduces the Alumni Hall of Fame inductees.

G Nearly 400 guests attended SHINE.

H Students, staff and board members dance the night away in the second annual flash mob.

SAVE THE DATE FOR **SHINE 2024**: THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

2022-2023 Academic Year



Monsignor Stuart Swetland

Though the times we live in can often feel gloomy and anxious, I have been encouraging our Donnelly community to live more deeply the virtue of hope and the gift of joy.

For our students, I challenged them to live in hope, which is really asking them to see reality in all its fullness. Every student comes to Donnelly with a story,

and that story often involves moments of tremendous struggle. Having persevered through many difficulties and achieving great things as Donnelly students is often a source of hope, not only for themselves, but for their families and communities.

I also asked our faculty and staff to choose joy as they perform their duties at the College. Joy is something that can brighten, buoy and bless the lives of those around us. Like hope, it does not mean that we will not face difficult times. Rather, it helps us approach those difficult times feeling more grounded, for we know storms pass. We also know that, here at Donnelly, there is a community we can lean on. As Jesus promises us, “These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full” (John 15:11).

I am filled with hope and joy when I give thanks for the generous donors and supporters who make the vision and mission of Donnelly possible. Some recent highlights demonstrate the impact of these gifts:

- In May we celebrated 119 graduates, including six from our program at Lansing Correctional Facility. Seven more students graduated this summer.
- 82% of our 2022-23 graduates were first-generation college students.
- We are adding an associate to bachelor's in nursing bridge program and pursuing national accreditation from the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing.
- Our 2023 SHINE event raised \$970,000 to support our students and mission.

Donnelly also continues to climb in the *U.S. News & World Report* Best Colleges rankings:

- In fall 2023, Donnelly was recognized as the most diverse college in the Midwest for the seventh straight year.
- Donnelly ranked 3rd in the Midwest in least student debt at graduation.
- Donnelly ranked 8th in economic diversity and 13th for social mobility of our graduates.
- We also ranked 19th nationally for most students over age 25.



In all we do, Donnelly students and staff continue to achieve excellence:

- For 2022, our practical nursing pass rates were again recognized for exceeding the national average.
- In spring 2023, we hosted a team from the Higher Learning Commission for a comprehensive reaccreditation visit and were unconditionally reaccredited for six years.

Perhaps the best summation of the good work that Donnelly does was made by the visiting HLC team:

“Donnelly College is succeeding at a difficult challenge: enrolling primarily first-generation, minority and low-income students, offering support for students well beyond the norm, setting tuition low and raising funds to support the budget. Faculty, staff, board members and donors are deeply committed to the mission, which makes the extra effort required possible.”

God continues to bless Donnelly College through you. As St. Paul teaches us, “Rejoice in the Lord always. I say again: Rejoice! Your kindness should be known to all” (Philippians 4:4-5).

We continue to pray at Mass every day for the many friends who have blessed Donnelly College by sharing your resources with us. Because of you, Donnelly students, faculty and staff are seeking truth, building community and pursuing excellence. Thank you for your continued prayers and support! **D**

Msgr. Stuart W. Swetland

Msgr. Stuart W. Swetland
President

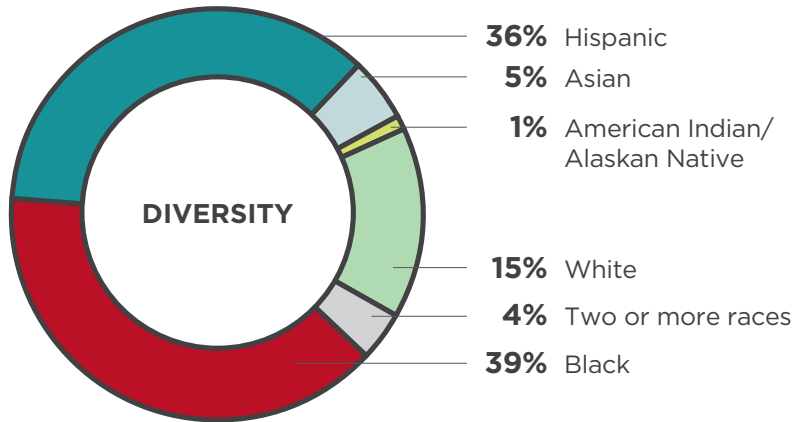
“These things
I have spoken
to you, that my joy
may be in you,
and that your joy
may be full!”

John 15:11

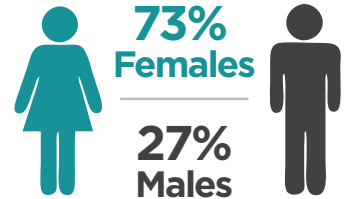


2022-2023 ACADEMIC

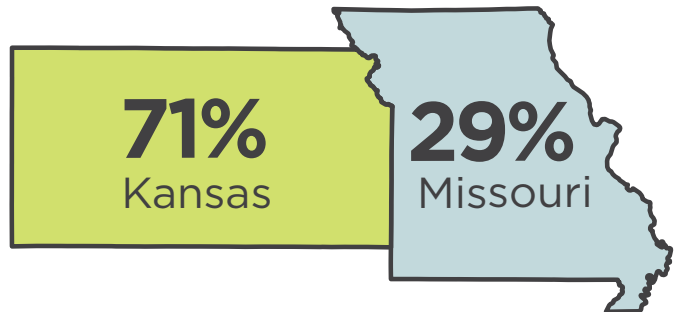
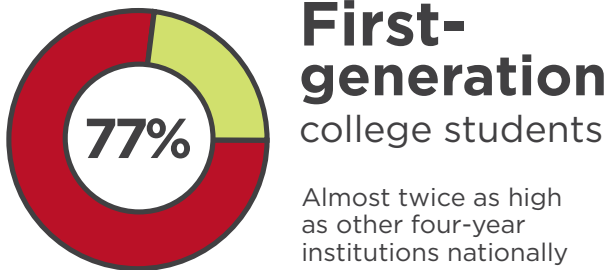
OUR STUDENTS



31
Average age



STUDENT BACKGROUNDS

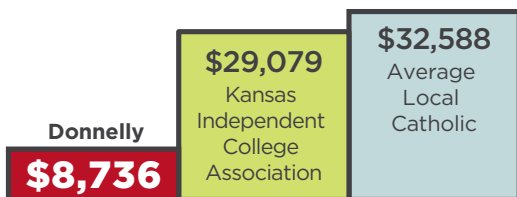


By County

36%	Wyandotte KS	23%	Jackson MO
22%	Johnson KS	5%	Clay & Platte MO
12%	Leavenworth KS	1%	Other MO
1%	Other KS		

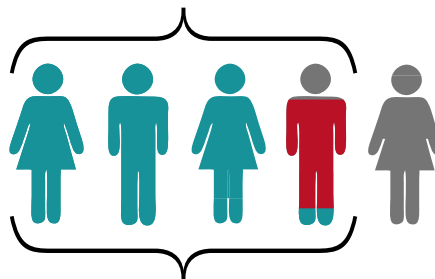
AFFORDABILITY

Average tuition and fees for a full-time student



Source: National Center for Education Statistics

74%
of students receive scholarships/grant aid



65% of students receive Pell Grant assistance

\$2,201,060
total scholarships and institutional aid

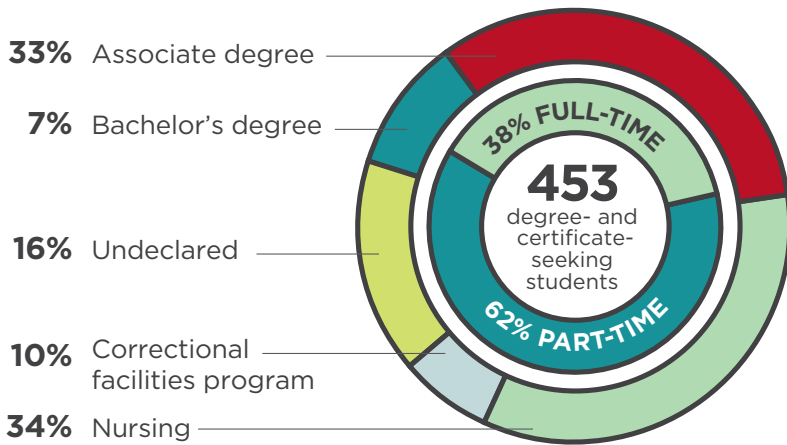
\$6,531
average award

\$1,197,029
total Pell Grants distributed

\$4,040
average award

YEAR: BY THE NUMBERS

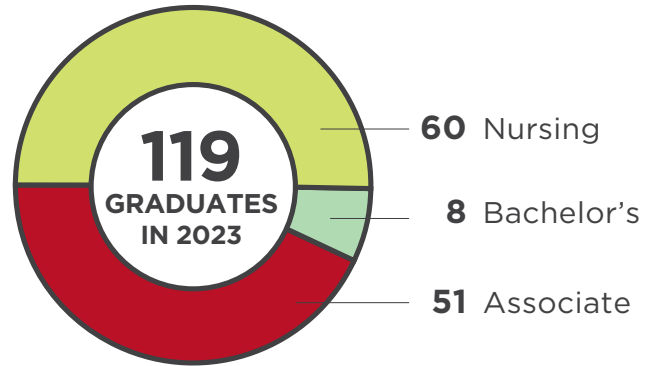
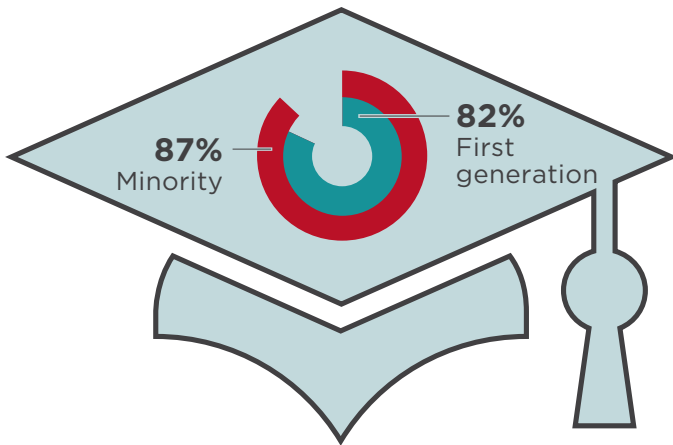
PROGRAM ENROLLMENT



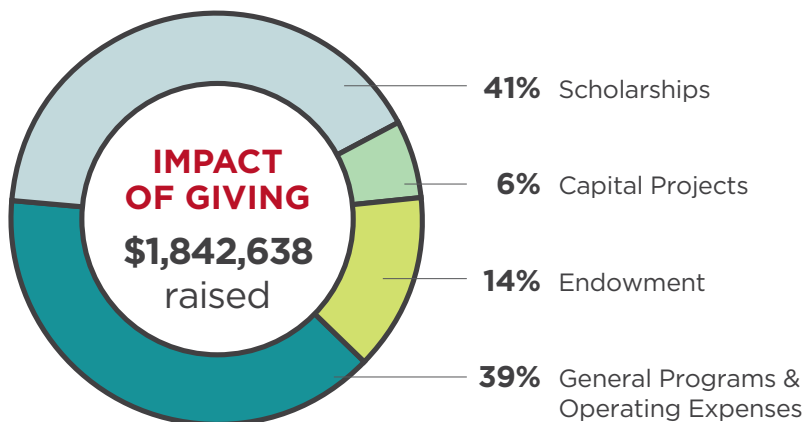
On average,
Donnelly classes have
10 STUDENTS



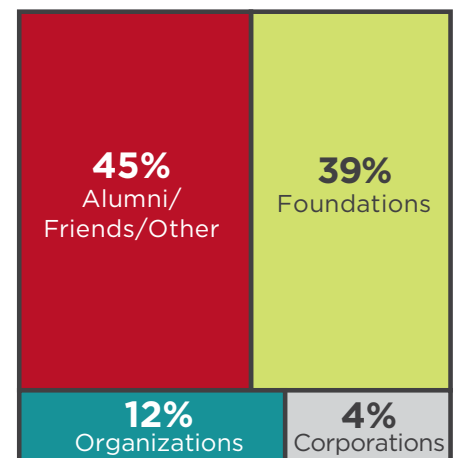
OUR 2023 GRADUATES



DONOR IMPACT



SOURCES OF GIFTS



THANK you

\$250,000+

Anonymous
Archdiocese of Kansas City
in Kansas
The Dehaemers Family
Charitable Trust
John W. & Effie E. Speas
Memorial Trust, Bank of
America, N.A., Trustee

\$100,000+

Barbara and David
Dehaemers

\$50,000+

H&R Block Foundation
Hawk Family Foundation
Dr. Judy Hemberger
Tom and Sharon McCullough
Frank and Margaret G.
McGee Fund
The Richardson Educational
Opportunities Trust
In Thanksgiving to
Blessed Seelos Fund
The Sosland Foundation

\$25,000+

Anonymous
Thomas R. Bettencourt
Living Trust
Excel Constructors
Forster-Powers Charitable
Trust
Health Forward Foundation
McCullough Family
Foundation
Newcomer Family
Foundation
R and C Charitable
Foundation
Rich and Linda Sizemore
John J. Sullivan, Jr.
Charitable Trust
Westerman Foundation

\$10,000+

909 Properties
Benedictine Sisters of
Mount St. Scholastica
Robert and Donna Berry
Dr. Paul and Karen Camarata
The Catholic Foundation of
Northeast Kansas

Constance M. Cooper
Charitable Foundation
The Ronald D. Deffenbaugh
Foundation
J.E. Dunn Construction Co.
Terrence and Hon. Peggy
Dunn
William Jr. and Marianne Dunn
Teodoro Jr. '93 and Leticia
Garcia
John and Teresa Gillcrist
David Luke Henton and
Timothy Kruse '75
JBH Foundation
Kevin '72 and Patricia Keefer
W. K. Kellogg Foundation
Koch Foundation
Irvn E. and Nevada P.
Linscomb Foundation
Loretto Foundation
MC Realty Group, LLC
The McDonnell Foundation
Robert E. Miller Group
Ramon and Sally Murguia
Oppenstein Brothers
Foundation, Commerce
Bank, Trustee

Raskob Foundation for
Catholic Activities, Inc.
Dr. John A. '66 and Diane
Romito
John and Marny Sherman
Sisters of Charity of
Leavenworth
Vivian and Hymie J. Sosland
Charitable Trust
Union Pacific Foundation
Gary and Jane Walton

\$5,000+

James Boldt and Kathleen
O'Malley Boldt
Richard and Trudy Boynton
Breidenthal Snyder
Foundation
Burns & McDonnell
Dunn Family Foundation
Richard Jr. and Laura
Flanigan
Luis and Kristin Garcia
Kenneth V. and Marilyn
Hager Family Fund
Michael and Marlys Haverty
Joan Horan

Mark and Patricia Lester
 Mariner Foundation
 Lucie Jane Desloge McAnany
 Scholarship
 Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation
 Kevin and Janette Rhoades
 Doug and Shonya Riedel
 Santa Marta Chapel
 Security Bank of Kansas City
 St. Paul Catholic Church
 Bob and Louise Tritt
 The Whispering Angel Trust
 Ken and Diane Williams
 Ira K. Witschner Charitable
 Trust D
 Stan and Nancy Woodworth
 Wyandotte Community
 Coalition Foundation

\$2,500+

American Theatre Guild
 James and Sarah Arkell
 M. Jason and Stacia Banks
 Daniel Braum '71
 Dan and Terri Carey
 Choice Solutions LLC
 Consulate of Mexico
 in Kansas City
 Country Club Bank
 FORVIS
 Gary and Susan Friedrichsen
 Tim Gaigals
 Geico
 Tim and Judy Gerstner
 Drs. Kenneth Gibson and
 Jackie Snyder
 Greater Kansas City Chamber
 of Commerce
 Heath and Jackie Hancock
 Rich and Sheila Henry
 Kansas City Life Insurance
 Company
 Kansas City Teen Summit
 Kansas Speedway
 Donald and Diane Lueger
 Mary Elizabeth Martin
 Scholarship Trust, US Bank
 N.A. Trustee
 Pat and Melodi McAnany
 Steve and Susan Miller Family
 Charitable Fund
 Nelson and Marcia Newcomer
 Promise of Learning Foundation
 Ray and Kathy Remijio
 REpowering Schools
 Curt and Becky Samson
 Herb and Lisa Sizemore
 Robin and Magda Snyder
 St. Michael the Archangel Parish
 Ernest III and Susan Straub

Monsignor Stuart Swetland
 Glenn and Joan Wells

\$1,000+

Dr. Pablo and Elizabeth Aguayo
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Remembering those who have recently passed away:

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Larry Ward '56

Former board member & 2013 Alumni Hall of Fame inductee

Sarah Washington '89

CLASS NOTES

Sharing exciting alumni news with our entire Donnelly Family

Arturo Hernandez-Villa '19 was commissioned as a second lieutenant into the United States Marine Corps in August.

Robert Briscoe '67 and **Sister Mary Teresa Morris, OSB, RN '77** were inducted into Donnelly's Alumni Hall of Fame.

Submit your own Class Notes online at donnelly.edu/class-notes or email marketing@donnelly.edu.

The Seelos Institute announced

At SHINE 2023, President Monsignor Stuart Swetland announced the launch of The Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos Institute for the Advancement of Catholic Education. The Institute aims to provide services to the local Catholic community by embracing two of Donnelly's core values: seeking truth and building community.

The Seelos Institute is named after Blessed Seelos, a German-born Redemptorist priest who dedicated his life to serving the poor and marginalized, with a special focus on immigrants and youth.

"As a Catholic College, Donnelly is called not just to provide education and faith formation to its students, but to engage the Church and the greater community in lifelong learning," Msgr. Swetland said. "With the creation of The Seelos Institute,

the College will have a more formal structure for expanding these efforts."

One key initiative of The Seelos Institute provides ongoing faculty formation in elementary and secondary schools throughout the Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas — a service previously provided by Holy Family School of Faith. The staff responsible for this initiative are Sebastian D'Amico, Jennifer Punswick and Aaron Williams, Donnelly's former director of mission.

Two other initiatives are also underway: a partnership with the Ethics of Evidence Foundation to publish a series of scholarly works exploring the relationship between faith and science, and adult education including a monthly adult Bible study and business classes. More initiatives will be added as The Seelos Institute evolves. **D**



Sebastian D'Amico



Jennifer Punswick



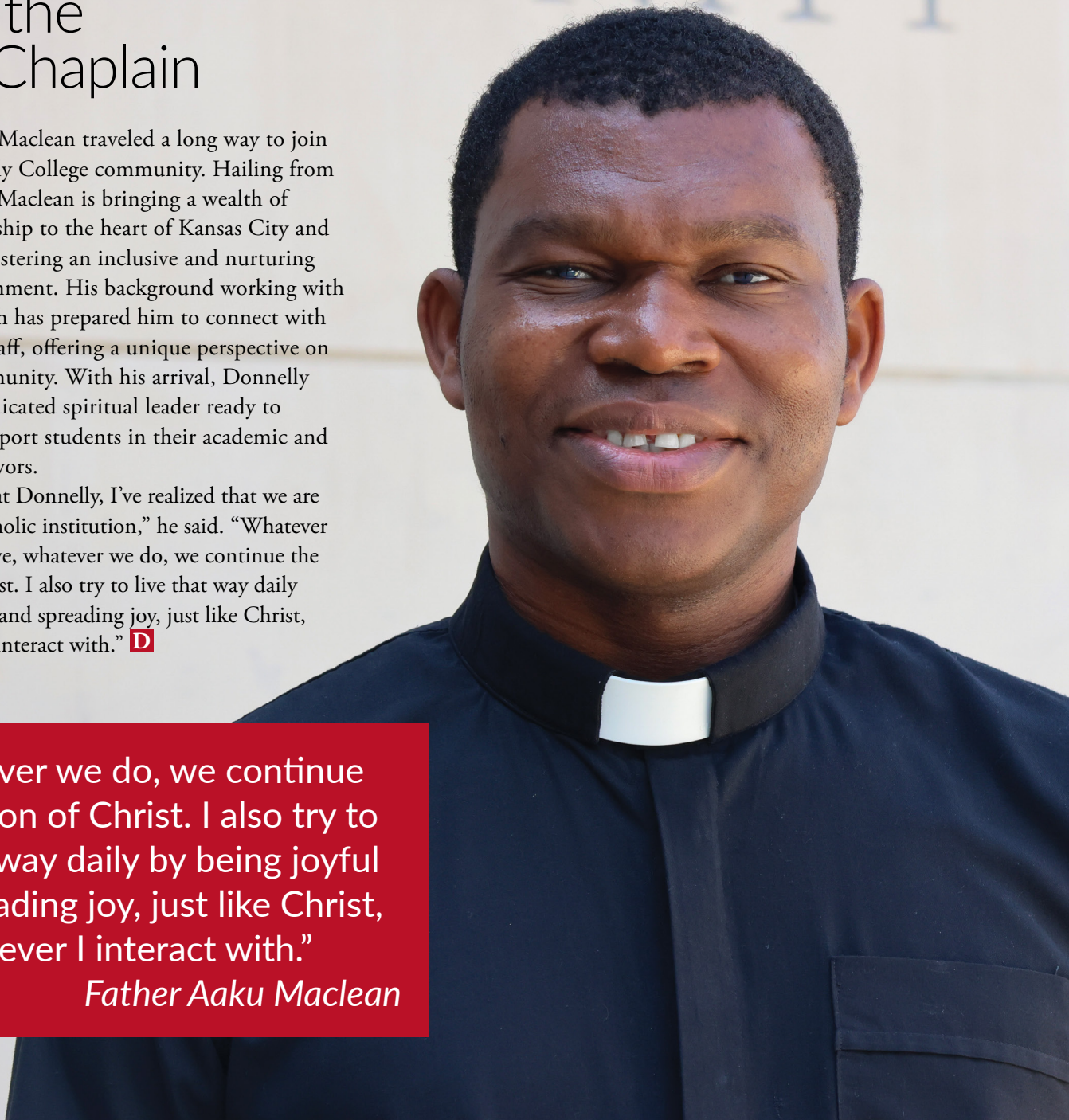
Aaron Williams

COMMUNITY

Meet the New Chaplain

Father Aaku Maclean traveled a long way to join the Donnelly College community. Hailing from Ghana, Father Maclean is bringing a wealth of spiritual leadership to the heart of Kansas City and is devoted to fostering an inclusive and nurturing campus environment. His background working with Ghanaian youth has prepared him to connect with students and staff, offering a unique perspective on faith and community. With his arrival, Donnelly welcomes a dedicated spiritual leader ready to inspire and support students in their academic and personal endeavors.

“In my time at Donnelly, I’ve realized that we are a powerful Catholic institution,” he said. “Whatever program we have, whatever we do, we continue the mission of Christ. I also try to live that way daily by being joyful and spreading joy, just like Christ, to whomever I interact with.” **D**



“..Whatever we do, we continue the mission of Christ. I also try to live that way daily by being joyful and spreading joy, just like Christ, to whomever I interact with.”

Father Aaku Maclean

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Guest Speaker Alexander Vesely
Grandson of *Man's Search for Meaning*
author Viktor Frankl
Tuesday, March 5

#1Day4Donnelly Giving Event
Wednesday, March 6

Commencement 2024
Saturday, May 18

SHINE 2024
Thursday, October 3



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For the seventh consecutive year, Donnelly College has been ranked the #1 most ethnically diverse college in the Midwest by *U.S. News & World Report*.

For more regional and national rankings, scan the QR code or visit donnelly.edu.

