

**PRESIDENT'S  
REPORT**  
[2014-2015]



*[This report contains data from the 2014-2015 school year unless otherwise noted]*

## A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

*A look back at the 2014-15 academic year*



Monsignor Stuart Swetland  
President

After my first year at Donnelly College, I think I understand more profoundly the challenges we face each day.

Like any nonprofit, higher education institution, resources are very limited. Yet I continue to be impressed by the wonderful faculty and staff of Donnelly who so selflessly serve our students, who are equally impressive in their commitment to overcoming obstacles to continue their education.

In spite of the many barriers we must overcome, Donnelly College ranks first in classroom experience out of 670 colleges, based on data drawn from the annual Community College Survey of Student Engagement (CCSSE). This points to something anyone associated with Donnelly knows to be true — we provide a top-notch, first-rate education to the students who attend.

The mission of Donnelly College is much needed, perhaps more than ever before. Pope Francis has challenged those who serve in the apostolate of Catholic higher education to be particularly focused on those who are underserved or on the margins of our society. He told the people of Rio de Janeiro in July of 2013:

“Our generation will show that it can rise to the promise found in each young person when we know how to give them space. This means that we have to create the material and spiritual conditions for their full development; to give them a solid basis on which to build their lives; to guarantee their safety and their education to be everything they can be; to pass on to them lasting values that make life worth living; to give them a transcendent horizon for their thirst for authentic happiness and their creativity for the good; to give them the legacy of a world worthy of human life; and to awaken in them their greatest potential as builders of their own destiny, sharing responsibility for the future of everyone. If we can do all this, we anticipate today the future that enters the world through the window of the young.”

As I often say, if we are listening closely to Pope Francis, if Donnelly College did not exist, we would need to build it. The good news is that it DOES exist, and has for 66 years, serving thousands of students over the decades.

This President’s Report aims to show gratitude for the support we receive to make it possible to carry out this critical mission, as well as to communicate outcomes of our work from the 2014-15 academic year. We have come a long way in our history but have much work yet to do.

As you read this report, please know how much we appreciate and need you and your continued investment in our mission, our students and our collective future “that enters the world through the window of the young.”

Pax,

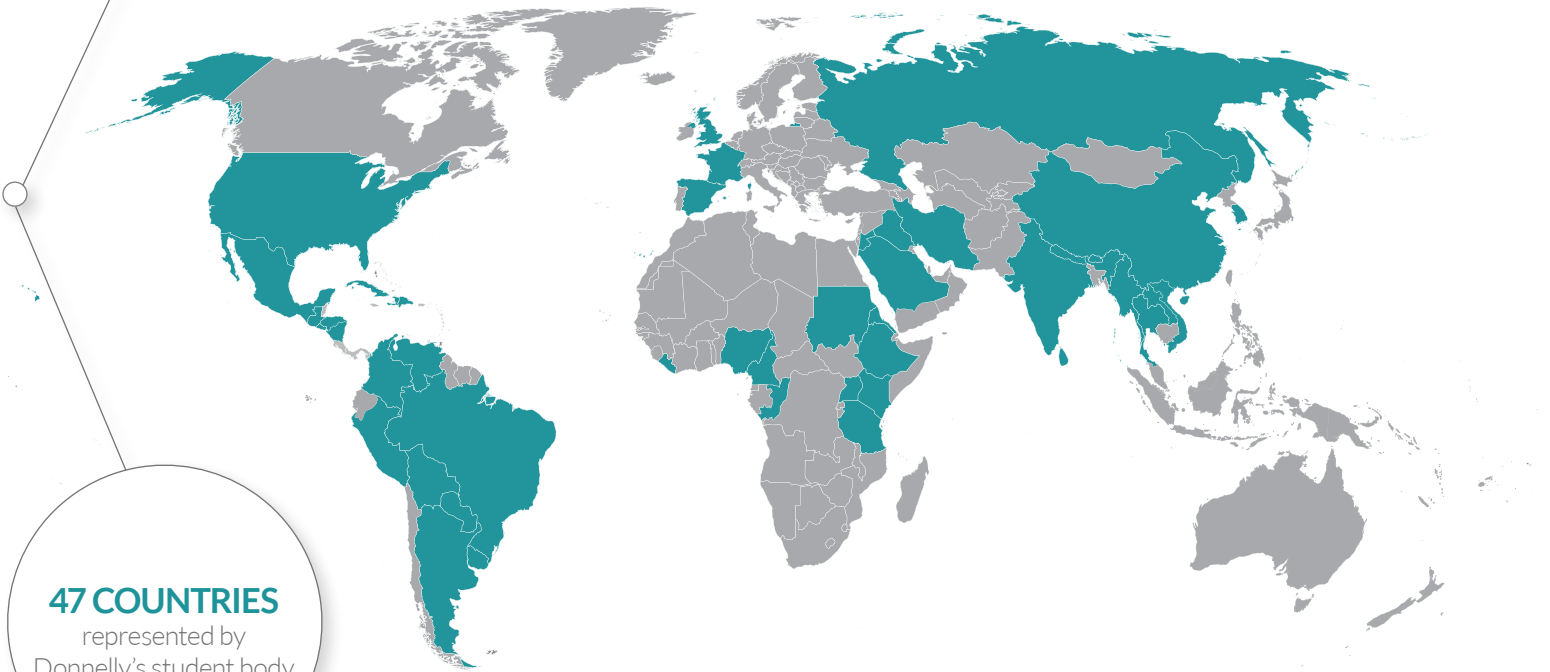
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Msgr. Stuart W. Swetland". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Monsignor Stuart Swetland, President



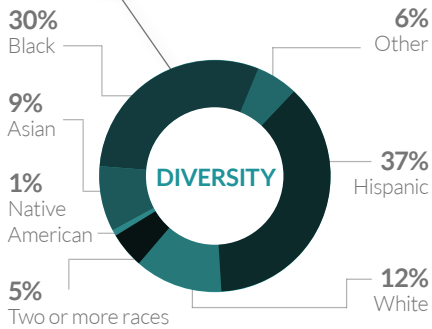


# DONNELLY SERVED 1,377 STUDENTS IN THE 2014-15 ACADEMIC YEAR



**47 COUNTRIES**  
represented by  
Donnelly's student body

Most represented countries: United States • Mexico • Myanmar (Burma) • Kenya • Guatemala • Nepal • Honduras • El Salvador • Venezuela



**93 PERCENT** are first-generation college students – twice as high as other four-year institutions nationally

**68 PERCENT** come from families with income levels less than \$18,000 per year



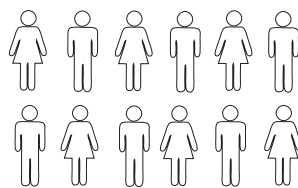
**36% male**



**64% female**

### STUDENTS FROM METRO COUNTIES

- 64%** Wyandotte County (KS)
- 16%** Jackson County (MO)
- 13%** Johnson County (KS)
- 3%** Leavenworth County (KS)
- 2%** Clay County (MO)
- 2%** Platte County (MO)



On average, Donnelly's classes have **12 STUDENTS**

### MOST REPRESENTED METRO HIGH SCHOOLS

- |                  |                         |
|------------------|-------------------------|
| Wyandotte High   | Northeast High          |
| JC Harmon High   | Alta Vista School       |
| FL Schlagle High | Fairfax Learning Center |
| Washington High  | Turner High             |

**38** total metro high schools are represented by Donnelly's student body



Out of 670 institutions included in WalletHub's recent Best & Worst Community Colleges ranking, Donnelly places No. 1 in classroom experience



Donnelly ranks 76th on the US Department of Education's affordability list for private, nonprofit, 4-year colleges

## ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

### BACHELOR'S DEGREES

Organizational Leadership  
 Urban Elementary Education  
 Information Systems

### ASSOCIATE DEGREES

Associate of Arts  
 Associate of Science  
 Associate of Applied Science

### PROGRAMS

English as a Second Language

- English for Academic Purposes
- Community English as a Second Language

Practical Nursing  
 Gateway to College

16%  
Gateway to College

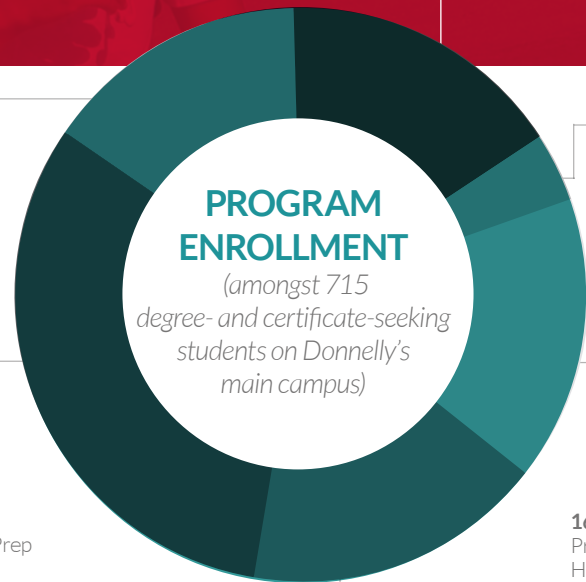
15%  
English as a Second  
a Language

32%  
Associate Degree

17%  
College Prep

4%  
Bachelor's  
Degree

16%  
Practical Nursing/  
Healthcare



of Donnelly's associate degree graduates go on to pursue four-year degrees

**43%**

Catholic

**57%**

Non-Catholic



of Donnelly's students receive Pell Grant assistance

**\$700,275**

in institutional aid was awarded in 2014-15

## LANSING CORRECTIONAL FACILITY PROGRAM

**420** number of inmates who have taken courses since 2001

**20** number of Lansing students who have earned associate degrees

**202** number of former students who have been released from prison

**2** percentage of Lansing associate graduates who have been reconvicted of a crime and are back in prison

**68** percentage of inmates nationally who are resentenced for a new crime within 3 years\*

\*National Institute of Justice

### WHY THIS PROGRAM MATTERS:

This program is a direct outreach of Donnelly's Catholic values and its mission to provide education to "those who might not otherwise be served."

Data show that earning a college degree is the single most effective tool to lower recidivism.

Donnelly began the program to fill a need after Pell Grants were made unavailable to prisoners in 1994; subsequently, most prison-based higher education programs ended.

*"If it could be summed up in one word, it's just giving us opportunity. It's a bad situation, but having that opportunity to not lose those years – to be able to walk out and do something and...have that choice to be something better – that appreciation can't be said."*

*– Carl Hughes, 2009 Lansing program graduate (Hughes subsequently earned his bachelor's from K-State and now runs several businesses)*



Donnelly was named one of the National Catholic Register's 39 top Catholic colleges & universities listed in its 2015 Catholic Identity College Guide



Donnelly scored in the top 10 percent nationally in all areas of student engagement on the Community College Survey of Student Engagement