Donnelly College Digest

Winter 2021 | donnelly.edu

# <section-header>

Plus: WALKING THE HALLS FACULTY SPOTLIGHT PRESIDENT'S REPORT







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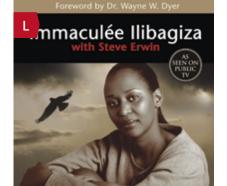
20 **DONNELLY FAMILI** Updates from our community

Since COVID-19 vaccinations have been available, Donnelly College nursing students and faculty have hosted vaccine clinics both on campus and in the community through a partnership with the United Government of Kansas City, Kansas and Wyandotte County. In late fall, they have added pediatric vaccination clinics for elementary and middle school students.

# WALKING THE HALLS A recap of Donnelly's 2021 fall semester

Α

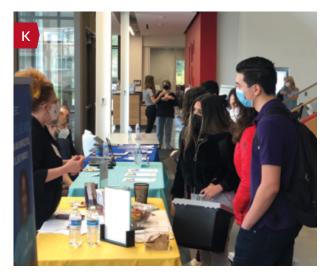
The fall semester at Donnelly is always packed with activities and events as students walk the halls of campus. This semester in particular has been filled with unique opportunities for students to get involved and immerse themselves in cultural experiences. Take a look at some of this semester's highlights.







OLLEGE























#### **CLOCKWISE FROM UPPER LEFT**

A AUGUST 10 | Staff and faculty gathered to participate in a **diversity**, **equity and inclusion presentation by Dr. D.A. Graham**, Interim Provost of the Department of Equity & Inclusion at the University of Kansas.

**B** AUGUST 14 | Incoming freshmen kicked off the school year with Donnelly's annual **Day of Service**. Students visited local nonprofits to lend a helping hand and meet fellow classmates and instructors.

C AUGUST 16 | The first day of school went off without a hitch! Students were welcomed to Donnelly's beautifully renovated campus with study snacks and planners to prepare them for a successful semester.

D AUGUST 19 | The entire Donnelly community made the traditional procession from campus to St. Peter's Cathedral for **Convocation Mass**.

**E** SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER | Students and staff bumped, set and spiked their way through **intramural volleyball season** at the Roeland Park Sports Dome.

**F** SEPTEMBER 9 | Benedictine College **President Stephen D. Minnis** spoke about the importance of keeping faith alive as a part of Donnelly's Common Read Lecture Series.

G SEPTEMBER 18 | The Study Abroad Club hosted the first annual **Back to School Bash** on campus. The club invited the entire community to enjoy live music, sample food from different cultures and donate to the club's fundraiser for study abroad costs.

H OCTOBER 7 | Donnelly's annual SHINE fundraiser was virtually broadcast to hundreds of online guests. The event raised over \$700,000 for student scholarships.

I OCTOBER 13 | To close out Hispanic Heritage Month, **Gene Chávez of Humanities Kansas** presented 'Flour Power', an informative discussion on the rich history of Mexican immigration to Kansas.

J OCTOBER 23 | Donnelly's oncampus **futsal field grand opening** was celebrated with a field blessing from Monsignor Swetland and a kick-off match between students and staff.

K NOVEMBER 4 | Over 20 employers visited Donnelly's campus for the Job and Internship Fair. Students had the opportunity to network with local companies, ask career questions and apply for internships and parttime and full-time positions.

L NOVEMBER 10 | Immaculée Ilibagiza, Rwandan survivor and New York Times best-selling author of *Left to Tell: Discovering God Amidst the Rwandan Holocaust*, shared her story of resilience at Donnelly's Event Center. Her book was chosen as Donnelly's 2021–2022 Common Read selection.

# Meet the longest-serving instructor at Donnelly College: Joe Multhauf

Joe Multhauf always knew he wanted to be a teacher. From a young age, he found a passion for science, technology, engineering and math (STEM), which eventually led him to pursue several degrees in related fields. Multhauf graduated from Shawnee Mission Northwest High School in the late 1970s and earned a Bachelor of Science in biology with a minor in humanities from Cardinal Newman College in St. Louis. Multhauf's love of learning didn't stop there; he then earned a Master of Arts in curriculum and instruction

from the University of Missouri – Kansas City while taking additional elective biology courses.

Multhauf joined the Donnelly faculty in 1992, making this his 29th year of teaching at Donnelly, with a total of 30 years teaching throughout his career. During his early years at Donnelly, he also taught as an adjunct instructor at Johnson County Community College. Multhauf recently took some time to reflect on what led him to Donnelly as well as why he has dedicated so many years to teaching here.

#### Where did your passion for STEM begin?

A passion for STEM learning runs in my family! My father was a surgeon, and I used to tag along with him when he made house calls and went on rounds at various area hospitals. Many of his patients lived in the neighborhoods around Donnelly and watching him help those in need instilled in me the same desire to help others. I also remember mixing chemicals in the bathroom sink as a child because I wanted to see what would happen. Of course, my mom was none too happy about those experiments. As a youth, I was highly involved with the Boy Scouts and that developed my love for the outdoors. I've always enjoyed studying science as well as the wonder and awe of God's creation.

#### How did you find Donnelly?

I started teaching as a graduate assistant at UMKC in the late 1980s. In the early 90s, I





applied for an adjunct teaching job at JCCC and taught biology, anatomy and physiology, head and neck anatomy, microbiology, pathophysiology and nutrition for a total of 12 years. During that time, I met Gonca Yurteri, a chemistry teacher at JCCC who was also teaching at Donnelly College. She invited me to apply at Donnelly to teach an evening biology course. I was interviewed and hired by Donnelly biology professor Karen Judy in 1992.

# You are the longest-serving instructor at Donnelly – what has kept you here?

I love the diversity at Donnelly College and the small class sizes. I love working with students and I believe in the mission of the College. My Catholic faith is the most essential aspect of my life, and I feel the responsibility to serve the community and live out Christ's gospel message.

# What are some of your favorite memories from your time here?

I have so many important memories, but one of the best was moving from the old academic building to the new building. It was a big job, but the faculty and staff all pulled together to make it happen. Everybody is excited to be in our new facility because it is an excellent environment for students to learn and grow. Other fond memories are working with "I've always enjoyed studying science as well as the wonder and awe of God's creation."

> Joe Multhauf Assistant Professor, Biology

students on various scientific projects during our summer STEM academies and planting and caring for our community garden. One funny story has to do with the old hospital building. From what I understand, there was an autopsy ward on the lower level where they would take the bodies of deceased patients. Some of the former maintenance crew insisted they saw spirits, but I never saw any Donnelly ghosts. But I do remember looking over my shoulder many nights just to make sure there were no ghosts following me home.

#### What is a good piece of advice for students?

I would encourage students to work hard, study hard and follow their dreams. I would also encourage students to take care of their environment, to serve their community and to use the talents God has given them to the best of their ability.



Tutor Sister Sharon Hamsa, O.S.B.

Donnelly College has always prided itself on serving underrepresented communities and being intentional about removing barriers and challenges for students. Historically, Donnelly has served first-generation, immigrant and non-traditional students – individuals who may not have a role model to help them navigate the college enrollment process.

In the last several years, the Donnelly community has become more intentional in asking the question, "How can we be more accommodating and more deliberate about putting students first?"

Although the "student-first mindset" has always been a part of Donnelly's culture, the idea became more prominent as initial planning for the campus renovation began. The new academic building is a physical reminder that students are the center and focal point of the school's mission. The building itself was created to be a resource for students. Every classroom, study space, technology resource, and department placement within the building was strategically considered.

"Rather than expecting students to be college-ready, the college needs to be student-ready."

> **Dr. Mary Pflanz** Assistant Vice President of Student Affairs

Assistant Vice President of Student Affairs, Dr. Mary Pflanz, was a part of the committee to brainstorm ideas for the Tutoring Center and other student resources. "Rather than expecting students to be college-ready, the college needs to be student-ready," she said. "Having a student-ready mindset will help us serve a more diverse group of students. We try not to assume anything and get student responses through surveys and opendoor policies. We focus on students' assets rather than limitations."

One of the highlights in the new facility is located in the heart of the building – the two-story Dean-Lozoya Family Academic Resource Center (ARC). The ARC features natural lighting, open design and central access. Here, students are provided a space to not only seek assistance with classes or assignments, but also to grow practical skills through mock interviews and test prep.

"When we designed this building, we considered the flow of student service delivery, common spaces outside the classrooms and optimal design to enhance student success," said Chief Operating Officer Lisa Stoothoff.

Donnelly's previous building was more a "campus of hallways" with limited options for students to gather outside of classrooms. Higher education research shows that collaborative learning opportunities outside the classroom are just as important to student success.

After the new academic building opened to students in August 2020, students immediately noticed how much easier it was to navigate the college. The first floor of the building houses everything students need, from admissions counselors and the Testing Center to the Registrar and Financial Aid Office, as well as attractive student common spaces. The center of the first floor is home to the library with quiet study spaces and computers. Across the hall lives the Campus Cupboard a food-assistance initiative that was started in 2019 by Professional Tutor, Sister Sharon Hamsa, O.S.B.

When Sr. Sharon realized that students were coming to class hungry, she researched what other schools did to help students with food assistance. At the time, she was working in Donnelly's Tutoring Center. When no one else was available to run the Cupboard, she stepped up and took it over as a volunteer. Students can stop by at specific times throughout the week to shop for themselves or family members in a safe, accepting environment. To keep the shelves stocked, Donnelly partners with other nonprofits like Giving the Basics and Catholic Charities. Since opening in 2019, the Campus Cupboard has also been supported by student interns as well as other faculty, staff and community volunteers.

When the pandemic forced all in-person classes to move to virtual learning in spring 2020, Donnelly's leadership supported keeping the Campus Cupboard open for students by shifting in-person shopping to drive-thru curbside pickup.

"Students, maybe more than ever, really needed help during the pandemic," said Associate Director of Academic Support Yvonne Telep, who assisted with the Campus Cupboard services during the pandemic. "That is an example of the student-first mindset. We wanted to make sure this service was available to students, so we figured out a way to make it happen. I think the students so appreciated it."

From an academic standpoint, the student-first mindset has directed class scheduling, curriculum and policies.

"The Academic and Student Affairs Leadership Team always goes back to this question – Can we be doing something better to put students first? Everything we do is to make learning better: strengthening the curriculum, hiring the best people, making information accessible," said Stoothoff.

One way of doing this is having Spanish-speaking faculty and staff. As a federally designated Hispanic-Serving Institution, having bilingual staff to help explain finances or the enrollment process is vital. To better serve new students, Donnelly's firstyear experience classes introduce the Donnelly culture and help prepare incoming students for college life. Another way instructors utilize this mindset is making assignments due in the early morning instead of late at night for the students who need time after a full day of work to get their assignments done.

A recent change implemented in response to student input was the shift to block scheduling for classes. The purpose of creating 75-minute classes with 45 minutes in between was to give students time to eat, study, check on their kids, make a needed phone call, visit the Tutoring Center, speak with instructors or work with peers. With no classes scheduled on Fridays, students have a full day to work, spend time with their families or complete internship hours. During the pandemic, when inperson classes shifted to virtual, surveys showed that students missed being on campus. Now that in-person learning has resumed, the campus remains open on Fridays for students to continue seeking resources or community.

Also included is the importance of service learning – giving back to the community and learning through an experienced-based curriculum.

"This institution is about the students," said Dr. Pflanz. "If there are no students, there is no college. Our aim is to give them the best experience they can have and allow them to be the best version of themselves."

## What does "student-first mindset" mean to you?

"Donnelly College has been such a blessing in my life! I have experienced firsthand how much Donnelly cares for its students. They always make a way for their students [to succeed] by being flexible and taking students' personal life into account."

Anakaren Corral Class of 2022 "Making our everyday practices deliberate, mission-focused, and prioritizing students at every step." Lisa Stoothoff Chief Operating Officer/ Dean of the College

# 2021 ALUMNI HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

To watch this year's Alumni Hall of Fame acceptance speeches, please visit **www.youtube.com/donnellyedu** 

# Dr. Dora Fonseca '90



Dr. Fonseca was born in Honduras and was an elementary school teacher before coming to the United States to learn English. While working as an au pair, Dora completed Donnelly's Intensive English program and began teaching Spanish in the Kansas City, Missouri school district. She continued her education, earning a bachelor's in education at the University of Missouri-Kansas City in 2005. She earned a master's degree in leadership from Baker University in 2015 and a doctorate in leadership from Saint Louis University in 2019. Dora is in her 36th year of teaching, currently at Van Horn High School in Independence, Missouri.

"Donnelly was the beginning of my successful path in the higher education field. I want to thank the founders, faculty and staff of this unique, welcoming college that helps whoever wants small-size classes, and one-on-one instruction when needed."

# Leo Mills '55

Leo Mills was the first in his family to graduate from college when he received his associate degree from Donnelly in 1955. That same year Leo married Sue Marie Brown. They had two children, Kevin and Jean. Leo continued his education, earning a bachelor's degree in Industrial Management from the University of Kansas in 1959. Leo was hired by Ford Motor Company at the Claycomo, Missouri plant and worked his way up to Production Engineering Manager before retiring in 1991. He continued to work as a part-time consultant for Ford for eight years.

"I have such fond memories of Sister Jerome Keeler, Sister Kathleen, and Sister Faith. They were wonderful teachers, and their dedication, guidance, and encouragement were the primary influence for me to continue my education after Donnelly and also were a factor in my successful career at Ford."



My Donnelly Tourney

### Dear Alumni and Friends of Donnelly,

My prayers were answered!

Until I was introduced to Donnelly, I didn't think there were any options for me to continue my education past high school due to my financial situation. Here, I've received scholarship support and discovered my path. I can't wait to graduate in December with my bachelor's in Information Systems.

All students come to college dreaming of a better life, but first-generation students like me have a lot of challenges to overcome. At Donnelly, we're encouraged by the many generous donors who invest in our future.

Whether you've given to Donnelly in the past or you're considering your first gift, know that every dollar helps students unlock their potential.

Will you help answer another Donnelly student's prayer this holiday season? Your support will ensure that students like me can become the best version of ourselves.



**To Hear Fatima's Story** Scan with your phone's camera or visit Donnelly's YouTube Channel.

To make an impact on students' future, visit **donnelly.edu/give** or use the return envelope found in this issue of the Digest.

-Fatima '17. '22

# SHINE FOR DONNELLY COLLEGE

# **BEHIND-THE-SCENES**

Thank you to Donnelly's supporters and donors for another successful SHINE. The money raised from this event funds student scholarships throughout the year. Because of you, Donnelly students can SHINE.

D

# HEAR THE INSPIRING STORIES FROM SHINE 2021 ON DONNELLY'S YOUTUBE CHANNEL!



#### FROM LEFT

A & B Behind-the-scenes action from the technology team in preparation for the live virtual event on October 7, 2021. C Alumni Hall of Fame inductees Dr. Dora Fonseca and Leo Mills accept their awards. D Alumni speaker Jonathon Westbrook prepares for his event speech. E Monsignor Stuart Swetland with SHINE Event Chairs Sister Anne Shepard, O.S.B., Kathleen O'Malley-Boldt and Jim Boldt. F Donnelly Board of Directors Chair Nestor Zuluaga introduces a SHINE feature.





# \$716,127 RAISED 2 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES HUNDREDS OF ONLINE GUESTS

# THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!

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# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

2020-2021 Academic Year



began this school year with such a grateful heart. Even with all the difficulties associated with COVID-19, God has been so good to Donnelly College. I can say without a doubt God has blessed and continues to bless our students and mission.

Donnelly College continues to benefit from our enhanced facilities. Our academic building is now a year old, and I am

Monsignor Stuart Swetland

constantly amazed by its bright and welcoming spaces. Donnelly students have benefitted from state-of-the-art labs and technology and the additional space in classrooms has been critical in enabling us to reduce class sizes for social distancing. We simply could not have continued in-person classes during the pandemic if we were still in the old building.

Additionally, our campus master plan is nearly complete. Despite supply chain problems, in September, our quad and futsal field were installed. In late October, the futsal field was blessed and an inaugural game was played between staff, alumni and students. The Seelos Chapel was in use as soon as we moved into the building in August 2020, but final touches continued to be added, including stained glass windows retrofitted from Donnelly's Meeting Room (formerly the Providence Hospital Chapel). Three additional custom stained glass windows were added in September 2021 featuring Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos, Our Lady of Guadalupe and Saints Scholastica and Benedict. Some other highlights from the 2020-21 academic year:

- Growing enrollment is key to our long-term sustainability plan. Whereas colleges across Kansas experienced enrollment declines averaging eight percent, Donnelly's Fall 2020 enrollment was up 11 percent over Fall 2019, including a substantial increase in freshman class size. We sustained this increase in Fall 2021.
- We received approval from the Kansas State Board of Nursing for an additional cohort of 25 Practical Nursing students who started in August 2021.
- Retaining students is also critical to sustainability. Despite disruptions caused by the pandemic, our fall-to-fall retention was up 10 percent over the previous academic year.
- For the fifth straight year, Donnelly has been named the "Most Diverse College in the Midwest" by U.S. News & World Report. Our bachelor's degree programs have been recognized as the most affordable in Kansas by Affordable Schools.
- Last academic year, Donnelly faculty and staff worked very hard to prepare our application requesting approval to permanently expand distance learning. In June 2021, we received approval from the Higher Learning Commission to offer online programs and expand hybrid courses. This expansion will allow for additional flexibility for current students and opportunities to reach out to new student populations, such as students outside our commuting radius seeking a faith-based education.

- In October, we hosted our annual SHINE event virtually from the new building's lobby and showcased a virtual tour of the academic facility. A public campus dedication is planned for April 22, 2022 so our donors and benefactors may visit the new building in person.
- We have raised over \$34 million for our campus transformation campaign, and we expect to conclude our fundraising by Summer 2022.
- After voting in an official mascot in 2019, last year we took another major step in bringing our mascot to life. We named the mascot "Lux" after Donnelly's motto *Lux Vera*. Lux the dragon made his live debut on the first day of classes in Fall 2020.

God has been so good to us! During the academic year, we offer mass each weekday at 12:20 p.m. In gratitude for his goodness, we pray for our students, faculty and staff. We also pray for our benefactors who have graciously shared a portion of their resources to support our mission "to serve those who otherwise might not be served." As we live out our values by **seeking truth**, **building community** and **pursuing excellence**, we cannot thank you enough for your support, prayers and sacrifice for our mission. You have helped us shine the light of Christ, *lux vera*, in a time of darkness.

God bless and peace,

Msp. Atuart W. Swettand

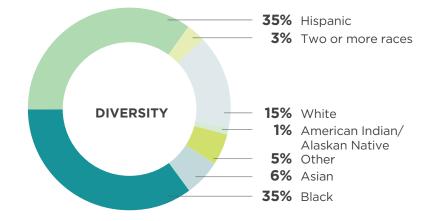
Msgr. Stuart W. Swetland President

# Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his good, for his end ures end ures EOREVER!

Psalm 107:1

# 2020-2021 ACADEMIC

# **OUR STUDENTS**

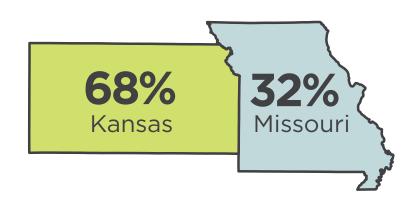




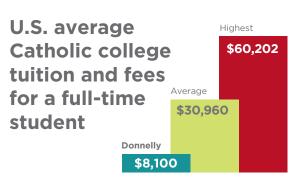


Almost twice as high as other four-year institutions nationally

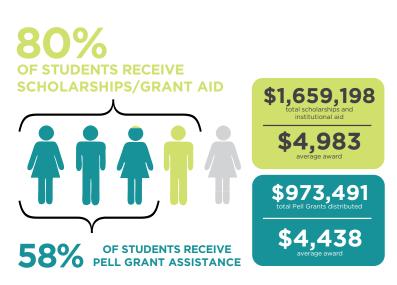
# WHERE OUR STUDENTS ARE FROM



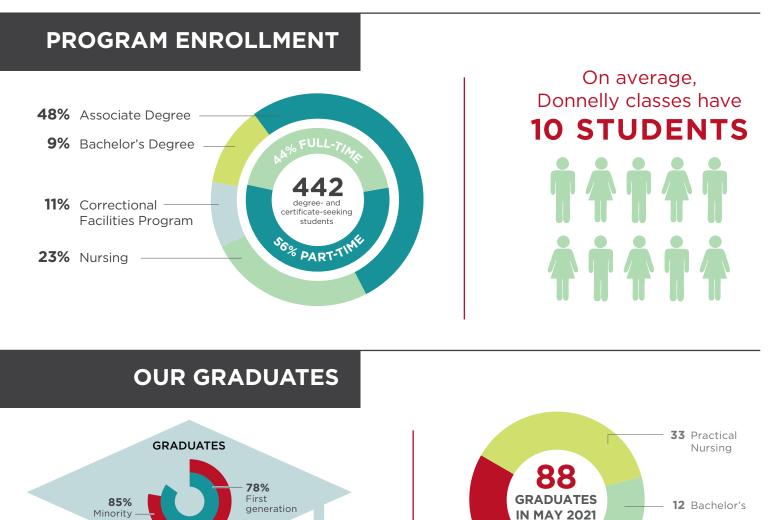
# AFFORDABILITY



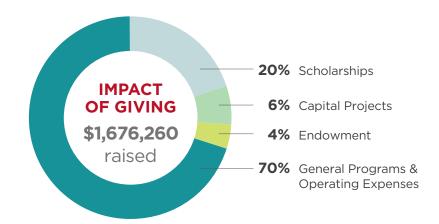
Sources: National Center for Education Statistics & Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities



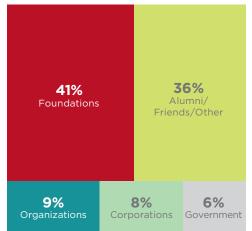
# YEAR: BY THE NUMBERS











43 Associate

# FOR YOUR SUPPORT GIFTS RECEIVED BETWEEN 7/1/20-6/30/21

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## LIFETIME SOCIETY

The Lifetime Society honors donors who have generously contributed more than \$250,000 over their history of giving to Donnelly College.

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† denotes deceased members

# IN MEMORIAM

Remembering those who have recently passed away:

Daniel V. Baker '58 Donald R. Goulding '59 Howard C. Kennedy '51 Frank M. Torella '71 Sister Paula Howard, O.S.B of Mount St. Scholastica, Former Academic Dean (1988-1999),

serving with Donnelly past presidents Fr. Raymond J. Davern and Dr. John P. Murry

# STAFF NOTES

Emily Buckley, Vice President of Advancement, Michaela Remijio, Director of Marketing, Erika Rothacher, Annual Fund Coordinator, Monsignor Stuart Swetland, and Dr. John Romito, Board Member, attended the Gonser Gerber Conference entitled Optimize Advancement Growth: Increase Your Capacity and Enhance Your Outcomes in August 2021.

Dhuha Shareef was promoted from Assistant Professor to Associate Professor of mathematics.

Alex Johnson, Academic Advisor, Tyler Johnson, Academic Librarian, and **Dr. Karen Lombardi**, Academic Advisor, attended a virtual summit hosted by The Legacy Group Online on *Access, Persistence, and Completion for Under-Represented Students* in September 2021.

Lindsey Weishar, Executive Assistant, placed third in the adult category for the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts' Artful Poetry Contest. Prizes included recording the poem on a Kauffman Center stage, appearing on KKFI Artspeak Radio and publication in local literary magazine *Kansas City Voices*.

# SHARE YOUR GOOD NEWS WITH US!

Email marketing@donnelly.edu or visit donnelly.edu/alumni



Donnelly's mascot Lux and Chief Operating Officer Lisa Stoothoff greet students for the first day of classes on August 16, 2021.

# **CONSTRUCTION** UPDATE

Visit the Transformations website to see the full list of investors, project partners and campaign leadership. Learn how you can still be a part of this exciting project:

#### www.campaignfordonnelly.com

Visit the Donnelly College blog for construction updates and photos from the last three years: www.donnelly.edu/blog

# SAVE THE DATE

## **Donnelly College Campus Dedication** Friday, April 22, 2022

Join us to celebrate the official dedication of Donnelly's newly renovated campus. More details to come!

**3:30 p.m.** Special dedication ceremony **4:30–6:30 p.m.** Open house and reception

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Advancement

Roger Berg, Jr.

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# UPCOMING EVENTS

Guest Speaker Maureen Mahoney (Donnelly Board Member & Former Chief of Staff, KCK Mayor's Office) Tuesday, February 22

**#1Day4Donnelly Giving Event** Wednesday, March 9

Campus Dedication Friday, April 22

**Commencement 2022** Sunday, May 15



DONNELLY COLLEGE 608 North 18th Street

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