



◆ 2025-2026 ◆

The Creighton Difference

FORWARD BLUE ANNUAL REPORT



The Difference You Make

In this year's **Forward Blue** report, we celebrate the difference Creighton is:

- The experiences of reflection, service, and global outreach we create for our students.
- The growth and formation our students carry into a waiting world.
- The leadership we represent in careers and communities.
- The generosity and support you proffer, and inspire of others.

In these pages, we spotlight the actions and aspirations that brighten our University. We illustrate the difference Creighton provides to our students and alumni, and importantly, the world around us. We connect teaching, mentoring, research, and an impulse to heal and hope.

These stories demonstrate just some of the many ways that **Forward Blue** supports individuals and communities close to home and far afield. They are testaments of your generosity.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

In so many ways, you are allowing us to strengthen and extend and freshen the Creighton difference, day by day, student by student, locally and globally, and ever Jesuit.

I sincerely thank you for your friendship, sharing of resources, and conviction in our compelling mission.



Gratefully,

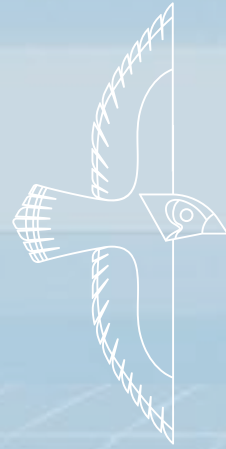
A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dan Hendrickson".

Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, SJ, PhD
Creighton University President



Milestones

Thank you for believing in Creighton—
every step of the way.



A record 1,248 first-year students arrive on campus—marking the 11th consecutive year the freshman class topped 1,000.



Creighton breaks ground on the Creighton Quad.

The 5.7-acre green space, made possible by philanthropic support from the Robert B. Daugherty Foundation, is expected to open during the 2026-2027 academic year. It will be located next to the Mike and Josie Harper Center.



The Child Safety Center opens in North Omaha.

An initiative of Creighton's Institute for Population Health, the CSC is funded by the Lozier Foundation.



The Bill and Ruth Scott family makes the lead gift to support and name "The Bill."

Previously known as the Sports Performance Center, the 50,000 sq. ft. facility will be located next to The Ruth, the volleyball and women's basketball practice facility built in 2019.



The Greisch Center for Enterprise Value is established.

The Diabetes Care Foundation makes the lead gift to create the center, which is named for DCF board member Jim Greisch, BSBA'80. The investment will provide seed funding for student and faculty entrepreneurs across all schools and colleges.



Creighton celebrates its new baseball practice field.

Modeled after nearby Schwab Field, the facility is the official practice site for visiting Men's College World Series teams, as well as the Bluejay baseball team. Construction of the field was funded by CWS of Omaha, Inc., and the State of Nebraska.



More than 3,000 donors support Giving Day.

More than \$1 million is raised during Creighton's annual 24-hour giving event.

2025

2026



The Samuel & Ida Kaiman Center for International Criminal Justice & Holocaust Studies is established.

The lead gift from Donna, Dave and Stacey Gilbert also endows the Howard A. Kaiman, JD'67, Nuremberg to the Hague (N2H) Program in Creighton's School of Law.



Creighton announces Fly Together, a \$300 million donor-funded initiative.

Fly Together will reshape a 12-block recreational and athletic corridor on the east side of campus. The Heider Family Foundation provided a \$100 million lead gift — the largest in Creighton's history.



Construction begins on the Sports Performance Center.

The crown jewel of the Fly Together initiative, the facility will serve more than 300 student-athletes, with spaces dedicated to strength and conditioning, sports medicine, psychology services, academic advising, nutrition services and more.



The Fritz Family Office of Cura Personalis Services is announced.

Lance Fritz, HON'23, and Julie Fritz make the lead gift to establish the office, which will provide additional programs and resources to support students' well-being beginning in academic year 2027-2028.



Creighton opens the ILAC global classroom.

The donor-funded high-tech classroom and communal space on the Institute for Latin American Concern campus in the Dominican Republic will broaden opportunities for students to study and serve there.



A gift from the Bedford Falls Foundation establishes the Joanne and William Conway Nursing Scholarship.

The gift, which will support 12 students enrolled in Creighton's accelerated nursing program, also launches the Joanne Barkett Conway Dean's Emergency Fund to assist students facing hardships.

By the Numbers

Thank you for making a collective impact.



\$268M+
Raised in scholarships



53,557
Total donors



43% of donors
Have given at least 3 times



29,312
First-time donors

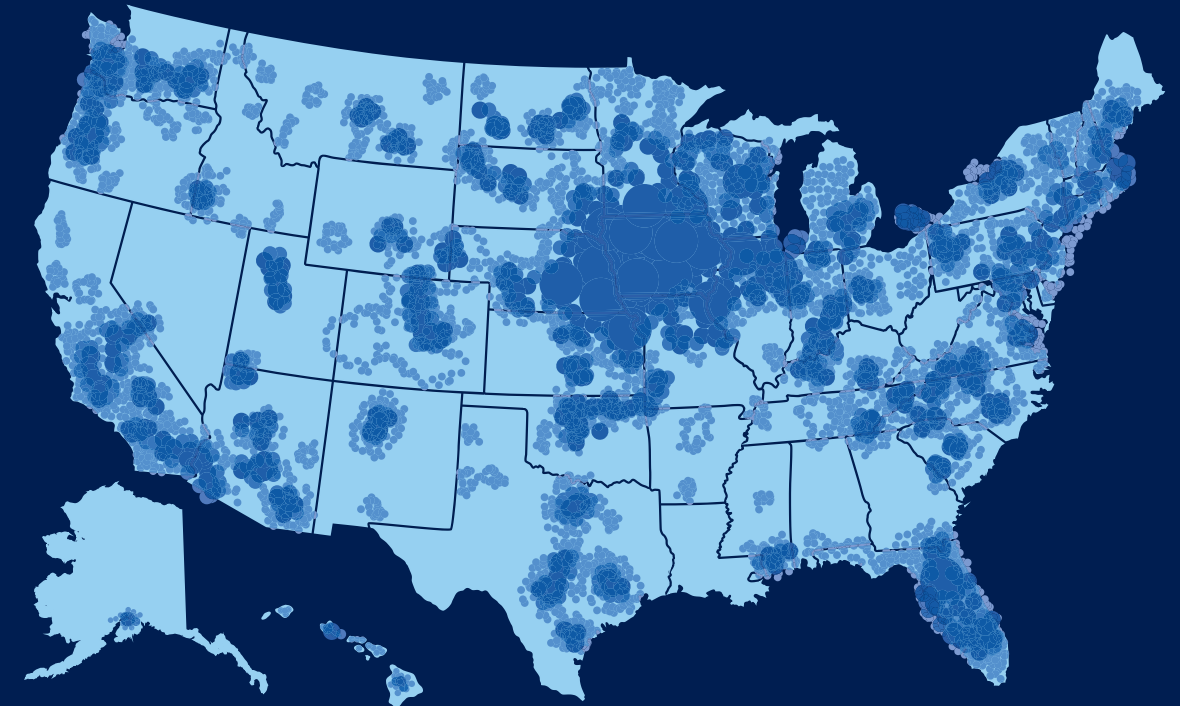


1,037
First-time \$50K+ donors

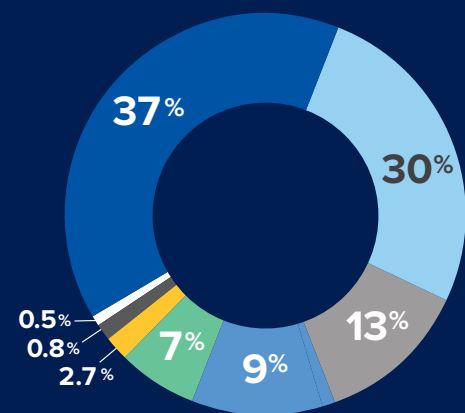


174,209 gifts
Of \$5K or under

WHERE OUR DONORS LIVE

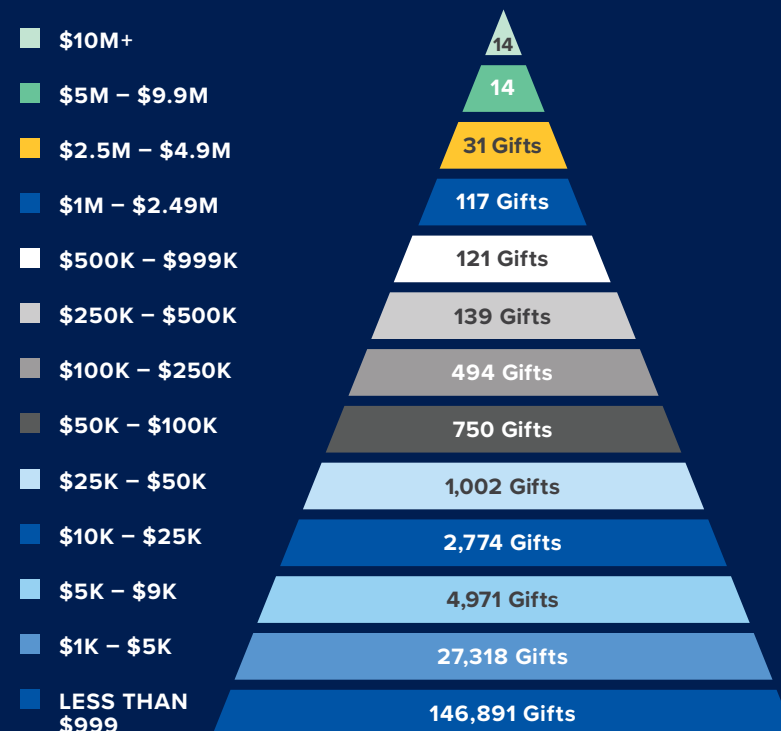


GIFTS BY SOURCE

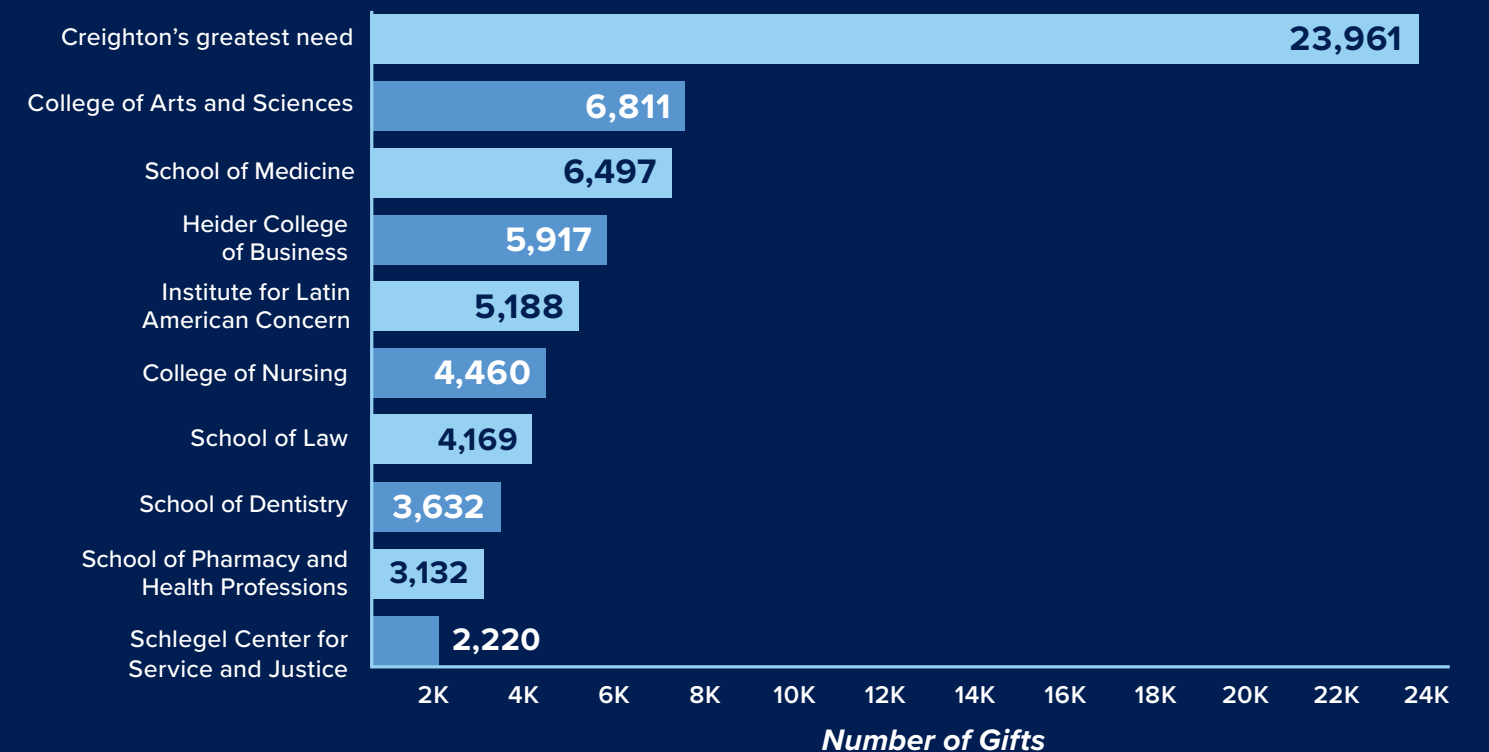


■ ALUMNI
 ■ FOUNDATIONS
 ■ OTHER INDIVIDUALS
 ■ OTHER ORGANIZATIONS
 ■ CORPORATIONS
 ■ PARENTS
 ■ RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS
 ■ FACULTY/STAFF

BY GIVING LEVEL



WHERE OUR DONORS GIVE: BY FUND



Total campaign progress numbers given in this report are as of June 30, 2026.



Creighton *Connected*

April Dixon, BS'16, MPH'19, spent most of her life without roots in any one community. As a military family, she and her siblings grew up in more than half a dozen states. She later enlisted, serving in posts around the world as an Air Force security forces officer.

She learned to quickly adapt, but she longed for the deeper connection that comes with staying in one place for a long time. Today, she finds herself firmly rooted in two communities. In fact, she carries both in her job title: **North Omaha Community Engagement Director for the Creighton University Institute for Population Health**. In her role, she partners with individuals and groups in North Omaha.

"At Creighton, we have a lot of great faculty, staff and students who want to work with the North Omaha community," Dixon says. "What should that look like? How do we make that work and make it sustainable?"

"We find those opportunities for connection, and we work to make them happen and make them last."

Dixon started at Creighton 20 years ago, serving as a health coordinator for women in the Benson area. Along the way, she completed a bachelor's degree in health administration and a master's degree in public health.

In her new role of strengthening Creighton's connection to North Omaha, Dixon is, in the process, finding a deeper sense of belonging than she's ever known. "I can walk around the neighborhood without feeling like an outsider. People see you, and there's the comforting feeling of, 'Yeah, I know you. You've been here before.'"

The Child Safety Center

In 2025, Creighton opened the new Child Safety Center, located in the University's renovated space at the Highlander Accelerator, 2112 N. 30th St. The center meets an essential need in the community: reducing accidental childhood injuries, the leading cause of death among children nationwide and in Nebraska.

The Child Safety Center, in partnership with Children's Nebraska, presents examples of real-world household hazards and demonstrates how to properly use such everyday items as bicycle helmets, car seats and stairway gates. The center also offers a range of safety supplies at a low cost to families. The center was made possible by an investment from the Lozier Foundation, as were recent renovations to the Creighton at Highlander space and the creation of multiple new staff positions.



MORE ESSENTIAL COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Fundraising numbers are through the 2025-2026 academic year.



School of Law Juvenile Justice Clinic

\$2,811,709 raised | **130 gifts**

Creighton law students gain real-world legal experience by providing free services for youth ages 11-19 with open cases in the Separate Juvenile Court of Douglas County.



School of Dentistry Clinic Patient Assistance Fund

\$110,255 raised | **238 gifts**

The dental school's clinic serves nearly 50,000 patient visits annually.



Magis Clinic

\$360,425 raised | **387 gifts**

The Creighton medical student-run free clinic treats nearly 900 patients annually.

Rooted *in Service*

Zach Stewart, PhD, BS'11, learned an essential lesson growing up on his family farm in Harlan, Iowa: "Soil is more than dirt; it's life."

Today, the Creighton biology alumnus is vice president of research and chief scientist at the International Fertilizer Development Center (IFDC), an independent nonprofit organization dedicated to improving farm soils – and the lives of small farmers – worldwide.

As a Creighton student, Stewart was awarded a Ferlic Summer Research Fellowship, an experience that shaped his career and life trajectory.

"It didn't just make me a better scientist. It helped form me as a whole person – someone who sees science not as an end but as a means to serve humanity."

Today, Stewart leads a global team working to help small farms where food is both the family's livelihood and sustenance. The IFDC provides crop development skills and the latest in fertilizer technology. It also promotes environmental sustainability and crop resilience, advancing ecological best practices and addressing natural disasters like severe droughts.

Stewart says his work has reinforced in him the importance of agriculture, not only at home in rural Iowa, but also on the global stage and in so many aspects of our lives. He remains rooted to the heartland (living in Kansas), but the service of his science spans the globe.



Stewart with partners in Madagascar.



Cassidy Schilling

Cassidy Schilling, OTD'25, works with burn survivors of all ages and at all levels of severity.

For burn survivors, the occupational therapist's job is to help rehabilitate the patient not only physically but also mentally and emotionally, as they navigate their recovery.

Schilling — a Phoenix alumna who remained in the city to work as a burn OT at Phoenix Children's — brings the Jesuit value of *cura personalis*, care for the whole person, to every patient.

For burn survivors, one of the pillars of recovery is finding the right community — one that supports you wholeheartedly. At Creighton, Schilling found her own community.

"My professors, friends and clinical experiences helped lead me to where I am today."

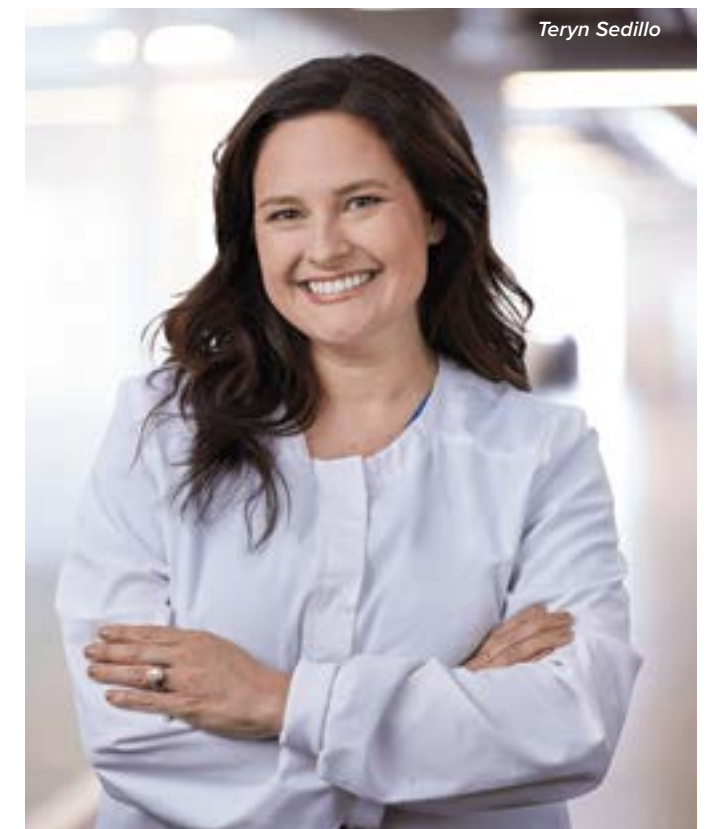
Care *of all kinds*

Two health sciences alumnae who are meeting unique needs in their communities.

There are only a few hundred dentists in the U.S. who have completed a residency focused on special care, which serves the dental needs of individuals with intellectual disabilities or other special needs, including Alzheimer's disease and autism. The only one in Nebraska is Teryn Sedillo, DDS'14.

Sedillo owns the Omaha-based Dignity Dental Services and founded the dentist-owned national franchise Dignity Dental Network. Both bring compassionate care to individuals with special needs.

"I'm grateful to Creighton for leading me here. I had no idea how this story was going to unfold. I'd love to say I planned it, but it was really the universe and God giving me these signs and telling me to follow them."



Teryn Sedillo



Rockib Uddin

Learning Through Action

Rockib Uddin, class of 2028, was drawn to public health for a deeply personal reason. When he was in middle school, his grandfather died of dysentery after drinking water from a contaminated well in Bangladesh.

"I didn't understand why he didn't have clean water," Uddin says. "That experience made me very focused on the global water crisis during high school and college, which broadened my perspective about public health and the impact it can have on a community and society."

At first, Uddin wasn't interested in medicine but in community work. But over time he began to see the profound impact he could have as a physician, improving a community's overall health through active relationships with individual patients.

While applying to medical schools, he learned about the School of Medicine's Arrupe Global Scholars and Partnerships Program. "I was like, 'Wait, this is exactly the type of program I want to pursue, one that allows me to earn a medical degree and a Master of Public Health, where the programs are fully integrated.'"

Arrupe scholars like Uddin complete a five-year program that includes extended repeat immersions to one of four partner sites. Uddin chose Kathmandu University in Nepal, where he works alongside providers, patients and the larger community. He is also working with the university's hospital on access to clean water.

"I'm learning through every step, every immersion, every interaction, every partnership I make. These partnerships and connections are ones I'm going to hold on to for the rest of my career."

Uddin says he is learning through action. "Creighton's Jesuit education puts meaning into everything we do and every experience we have. What we do and what we learn is for the sake of others, not ourselves. I always reflect on that as I try to become the physician and health practitioner I hope to be."



Arrupe Global Scholars and Partnerships Program

In 2021, an anonymous foundation made a \$25 million gift to establish the Arrupe Global Scholars and Partnerships Program at Creighton. Since then, multiple cohorts of medical students have traveled to sites throughout the world to work alongside community partners and healthcare providers. Through the five-year dual MD-MPH program, students learn through Ignatian formation to stand with marginalized communities during five immersions across partner sites in the Dominican Republic, Rwanda, Ecuador and Nepal.

FORWARD BLUE:
IMPACT ON MISSION,
ACADEMICS & PROGRAMS



400+ programs
supported

across Omaha and Phoenix campuses



13
endowed chairs
funded during the campaign

MORE ESSENTIAL COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Fundraising numbers are through the 2025-2026 academic year.



Institute for Latin American Concern

\$5,804,133 raised | 5,188 gifts

For over 50 years, Creighton has offered students the opportunity to learn through service at Misión ILAC in the Dominican Republic.



Schlegel Center for Service and Justice

\$859,949 raised | 2,220 gifts

Since 1983, thousands of Creighton participants have gone on more than 1,000 Service & Justice trips through the SCSJ.



Magis Catholic Teacher Corps

\$565,526 raised | 370 gifts

Students called to serve earn a master's degree while also teaching in Catholic schools throughout the Midwest.

Just Getting Started

Heider College of Business senior **Mary Margaret Mellen** started her own nonprofit at the age of 11, a cake-making business that raised \$40,000 for children’s meals, medical research and life-changing reconstructive surgeries.

Several years later, she brought her entrepreneurial mindset to Creighton, co-founding the Entrepreneurship Club, where she and like-minded innovators bring their ideas to life. Mellen is now the club’s president and has taken a pivotal role in the newly established **Greisch Center for Enterprise Value**.

With recent alumnus **Carson Holt, BSBA’25**, and Greisch Center for Enterprise Value director **Nathan Preheim, BA’96**, Mellen is helping lay the groundwork for a future investment fund that could provide capital and support to the next generation of Creighton entrepreneurs.

Creighton student startups so far have included a mobile barbershop, a service that provides animal therapy in hospitals, an agency that connects college student-athletes with branding opportunities, a sneaker restoration service, an AI automation consulting firm and businesses that make energy drinks, smoothie bowls, college preparation packets, eco-friendly fishing tackle, indestructible dog beds and more.

“At Creighton, you not only have the opportunity to learn but to build. It’s a school of thought that drew me to Creighton in the first place: innovation and creative thinking that looks to solve problems in ways that truly matter.”

-MARY MARGARET MELLEN



GREISCH CENTER FOR Enterprise Value

In the spring of 2026, the Diabetes Care Foundation committed \$4 million to support the Greisch Center for Enterprise Value, named in honor of foundation board member **Jim Greisch, BSBA’80**. The Omaha-based Diabetes Care Foundation funds initiatives in healthcare, education and innovation across the U.S.

The center will put Creighton “on the map as the entrepreneurship hub of higher ed,” says Nathan Preheim. “We are building something that doesn’t exist at any other college in the country: a nationally renowned program with innovative curriculum, resources and opportunities for practical application that will attract the most out-of-the-box thinkers and doers to Creighton.”

MORE INNOVATIVE PROGRAMS

Fundraising numbers are through the 2025-2026 academic year.



School of Dentistry Healthy Smiles Program

\$613,109 raised | **97 gifts**

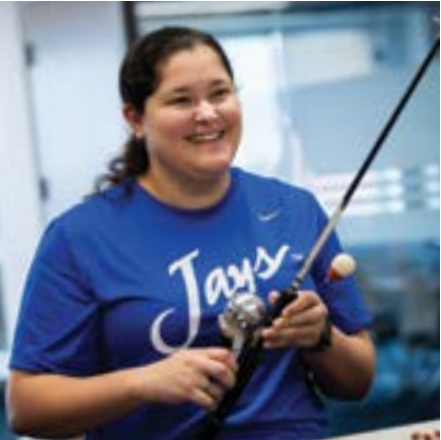
The Healthy Smiles Program began in 2014 to address local oral health disparities in children. Creighton dental students now provide dental sealants, fluoride varnish, dental screenings and oral health education for approximately 2,500 children annually at no cost to families.



CURAS

\$1,109,127 raised | **262 gifts**

The Center for Undergraduate Research and Scholarship connects undergraduate students across all schools and colleges with research opportunities. More than 50% of College of Arts and Sciences students take part in undergraduate research.



The Faces You Remember

Adrian Martinez, Class of 2028, is the kind of student nursing schools are competing for — exemplary GPA, leadership experience, a compelling story. Martinez received offers from other schools (including one full-ride scholarship). In the end, a prestigious new scholarship brought him to Creighton.

Martinez is one of the first recipients of the **Harper Nursing Scholarship**, a nearly full-tuition program established with a \$5.2 million gift from the Harper Family Foundation.

“Besides the amazing scholarship, I also knew that Creighton-educated healthcare providers have a great reputation,” Martinez says. “The Rachel and CL Werner Center for Health Sciences Education was a huge factor in my decision, too.”

Through hands-on experiences and curriculum, Harper Scholars like Martinez focus on one of four pillars while earning their nursing degree: advocacy, research, service and justice, or leadership.

“I’m taking the leadership track because I want to care for patients and also advocate for nurses. As a Harper Scholar, I’m taking every opportunity to grow as a future nurse and nursing leader.”



First cohort of Harper Nursing Scholars

Adrian Martinez



(Martinez is the vice president of Creighton’s Nurses Association. He hopes to one day return to Creighton to earn a doctorate in nursing leadership.)

Martinez chose to pursue this path because of the impact nurses have had on his own life. As a child, he was continually hospitalized due to complications from kidney disease, and, more than anyone else, it was his nurses who guided him and his family through the worst of it. “You always remember the faces of the people who get you through the hard stuff. I want to be one of those faces, one of those advocates.”

Martinez says his scholarship is itself an invaluable form of advocacy. “For me and my fellow Harper Scholars and students who are receiving other scholarships, donors are showing us that they trust us to lead with empathy. In advocating for us, they’re also advocating for every patient we care for.”



Nursing Scholarship Programs Established in 2025-26

The Joanne and William Conway Nursing Scholarship

was established with a \$1 million gift from the Bedford Falls Foundation. The foundation’s gift also provides resources for a dedicated tutoring program and an emergency fund for nursing students.

The Don C. Scott Family Foundation Accelerated Nursing Student Scholarship

provides full scholarship support for students in the College of Nursing’s accelerated program who have a passion for providing mental health-care for their community.

FORWARD BLUE: SCHOLARSHIP IMPACT



530 new scholarships

established during Forward Blue



\$268M raised

in total scholarship dollars



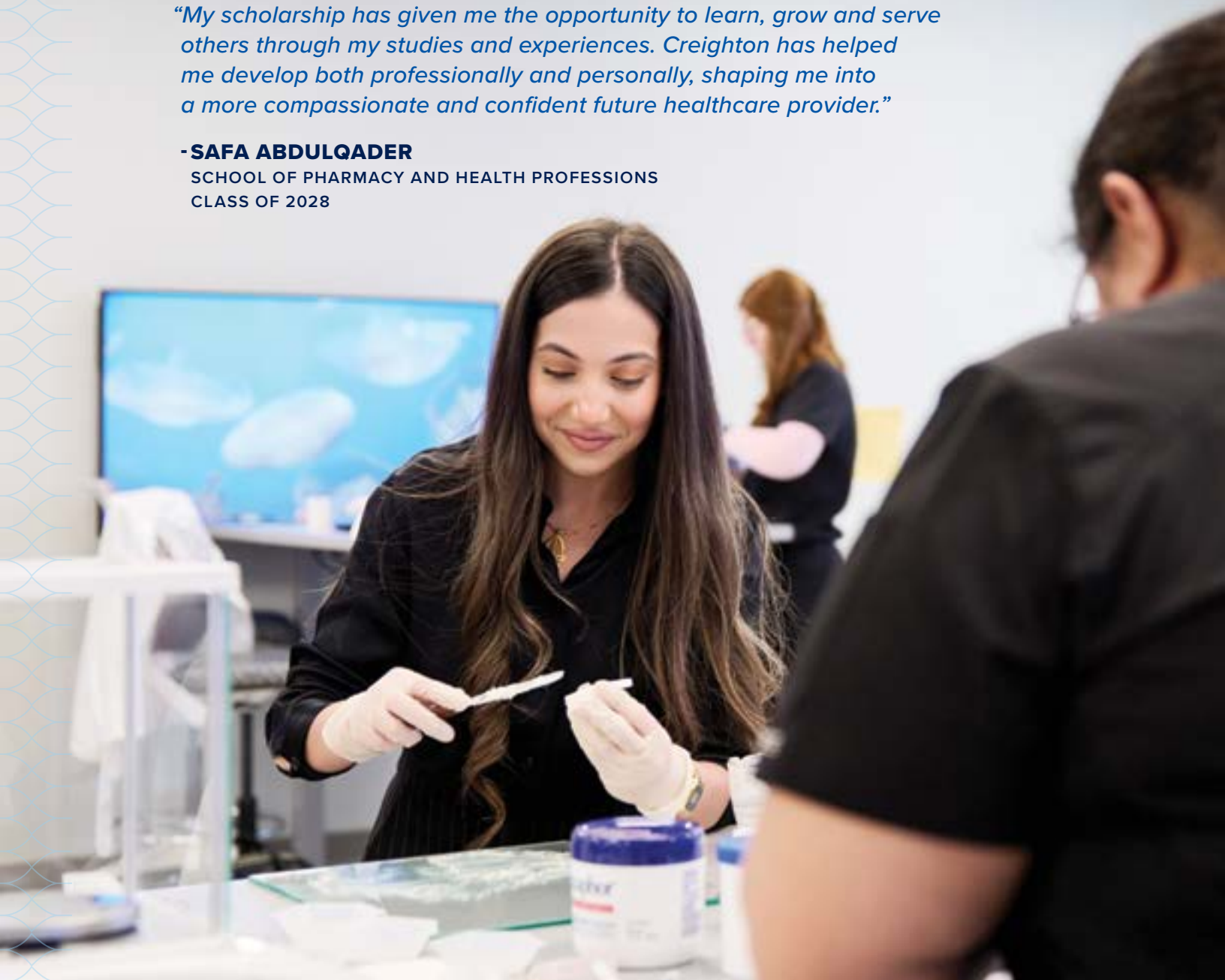
8,664 students

have benefited from scholarships during the campaign.

"My scholarship has given me the opportunity to learn, grow and serve others through my studies and experiences. Creighton has helped me develop both professionally and personally, shaping me into a more compassionate and confident future healthcare provider."

-SAFA ABDULQADER

SCHOOL OF PHARMACY AND HEALTH PROFESSIONS
CLASS OF 2028



"I'm thankful to donors who made my education attainable and allowed me to focus on becoming the physician I aspire to be. I have grown through service, research and studying abroad, along with a continued effort to find deeper meaning in every experience. With the guidance of a mentor, I also learned to recognize strengths I had not fully seen in myself."

-BEN BORGMEIER

BS'24, SCHOOL OF MEDICINE, CLASS OF 2029



"I love being a Bluejay. When I joined a research lab, I initially felt unsure of my ability to keep up. However, with the guidance of my peers and professors, I have grown significantly in both confidence and skill. The encouragement and kindness I have experienced at Creighton are unmatched, and I am so grateful."

-SHALOM MANYARA

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES, CLASS OF 2028



"I'm thankful to Creighton's scholarship donors for supporting both my undergraduate and legal education and, in many ways, making me a better person. Creighton holds a very special place in my life, and I don't take my seven years here for granted."

-KATHERINE COX

BS'23, JD'26

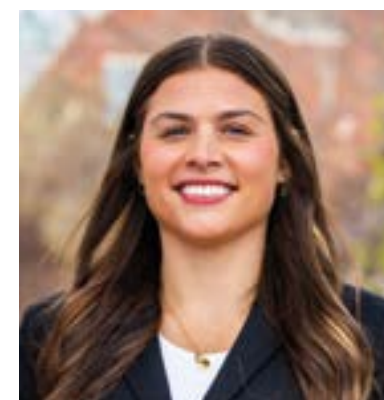


"I'll never forget my first patient—being trusted with their care challenged me, sharpened my focus, and confirmed I'm exactly where I'm meant to be."

My scholarship, and the people behind it, make experiences like this possible. It reflects the generosity of this close-knit community."

-COLE BELL

SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY, CLASS OF 2027



"I chose Creighton for high-quality academics and basketball. My competitive drive and internal motivation were shaped early and strengthened in the classroom and on the court. Creighton opened doors I never expected, including the opportunity to take my game overseas and to work toward my CPA abroad! I value what I've gained and carry the Bluejay spirit with me in everything I do."

-KENNEDY TOWNSEND

HEIDER COLLEGE OF BUSINESS, CLASS OF 2026

The Best and Truest Version

The not-so-secret sauce to making the most of your time at Creighton: Get involved. Seek new experiences. *Find your people.*

Kathryn McGovern, BA'26, embraced this ethos wholeheartedly. During her time studying Theology and Justice & Society, she took on as many opportunities as she could: The Honors Program, Christian Life Community (CLC), leading Encounter Retreats with Campus Ministry, singing in the choir at Tuesday night Masses, Service & Justice trips around the country, and a four-month Encuentro Dominicano immersion in the Dominican Republic, where she worked on an aqueduct and at an elementary school. Outside of Creighton, she spent much of her free time working with children with disabilities through Nebraska Medicine's Munroe-Meyer Institute.

"Through these experiences," McGovern says, "there was a strong emphasis on not just improving your resume but discerning how to become the best and truest version of yourself, how to understand your talents and what you want from life and how you're able to contribute to the world. I learned the most about myself in the process of serving others."

Jesuit charisms like *cura personalis* served as the framework for making the most of every experience. She learned how to place her passion and purpose into context during long discussions at the Retreat Center or in the classroom. (Her favorite classes included Vocational Discernment and the Ignatian Spiritual Exercises.)

McGovern has continued her journey in Catholic education, both as a student and (now) an educator. She is a master's student at the University of Notre Dame's Alliance for Catholic Education. During the summer, she takes courses in Catholic education. During the school year, she teaches third grade full-time at an underserved Catholic school in Milwaukee.

"The thing I'll take with me most from Creighton, beyond the sense of community, is the idea of continual discernment."



"I changed a lot at Creighton, and I will continue to change. Creighton showed me so many ways to keep growing as a whole human being."

The Fritz Family Office of Cura Personalis Services

Creighton continues to deepen its commitment to promoting mental and spiritual well-being in every school and college. This is taking a new form with the Fritz Family Office of Cura Personalis Services, established with a \$3 million gift from Lance, HON'23, and Julie Fritz.

Creighton is not experiencing a mental health crisis, but many students are struggling, facing challenges unique to their generation

and having not developed the life skills they need to thrive. Some lack interpersonal skills, for instance, or the ability to navigate life transitions, such as ending a relationship or changing their major.

The Fritz Family Office of Cura Personalis Services will offer students opportunities to further develop foundational skills that will enable them to succeed at Creighton and beyond.

MORE STUDENT FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES

Fundraising numbers are through the 2025-2026 academic year.



The Success Center

\$70,950 raised | **77 gifts**

Through tutoring, academic success coaching, advising, accessibility services, career development, and student and family support, The Success Center takes a proactive, high-touch approach to helping students overcome challenges and thrive.



Campus Ministry

\$177,203 raised | **1,145 gifts**

Campus Ministry offers a variety of opportunities for students to deepen their faith, including worship, small groups and retreats. Each year, hundreds of students pray and connect with one another at Creighton's Retreat Center in Griswold, Iowa.

More Than Buildings

The crown jewel of the University's growing Athletic Village, **"The Bill"** will be completed in 2027 and will serve all student-athletes at Creighton. Named after the late Bill Scott, Creighton donor and friend, The Bill will be immediately west of The Ruth, the practice space for Creighton volleyball and women's basketball, named in honor of Bill's wife of 73 years. The family of **Bill and Ruth Scott, HON'26**, made the lead gift to build The Bill.

The Bill will feature approximately 10,000 sq. ft. of new strength-and-conditioning space, an outdoor training area, a dining hall and more.

The Bill is part of **Fly Together**, a \$300 million donor-funded initiative to reimagine recreational and athletic facilities across campus. Fly Together launched with a \$100 million gift from the Heider Family Foundation.

Other Fly Together projects include a new student fitness center, new softball competition and baseball practice fields, a baseball and softball team facility, and renovations to existing athletic facilities. Creighton will meet the rising Builder's District east of 17th St. with a revitalized pathway called The Jaywalk.



"I speak to so many of our alumni around the nation. They are always proud of this campus and the ways it continues to grow and evolve, making the student's experience all the better."

-THE REV. DANIEL S. HENDRICKSON, SJ, PHD
President, Creighton University

FORWARD BLUE: CAMPUS IMPACT



27 new buildings and campus renovation projects



\$360M in total capital donations



Magis Sophomore Residence Hall

This fall, Creighton is completing two major campus-improvement projects: a new residence hall (pictured to the right) and the Creighton Quad. The new four-story residence hall, located on N. 21st Street between Cuming and Burt Streets, will be home to 400 second-year students and includes communal study spaces for residents and common recreational areas for all students.

The donor-funded Creighton Quad brings 251,500 square feet of vibrant, active green space near 22nd and Burt Streets, featuring an amphitheater, pavilion, stage, fountain plaza, and an ellipse with an art installation. The Quad will mark the largest physical reshaping of the campus in Creighton's history.





780310 California Plaza
Omaha, Nebraska 68178-0310

Thank you

For your investment in
Creighton students and the
communities they serve.
To continue your support
of Forward Blue, visit
creighton.edu/forwardblue

— 2025-2026 —

The Creighton Difference

FORWARD BLUE ANNUAL REPORT

