IN PURSUIT
of the greater
GOOD.

Grinnell College
In pursuit of the GREATER GOOD. Is there any pursuit more worthwhile or necessary?

It was a Grinnellian who first properly calculated the age of the earth. Another authored Roosevelt’s New Deal. One co-founded Intel. Another was the U.S. ambassador to Senegal. And one spawned the Social Gospel movement in the United States…There’s clearly something more than corn growing in these Iowa fields.

The Grinnell experience develops potential, grows leaders, and changes the world.
FIRM ROOTS, continued growth.

The traditions of excellence, activism, and personal transformation upon which Grinnell was founded remain an important part of who we are today. But shaping students into the best versions of themselves is just one part of what Grinnell does. Equally important, Grinnell graduates global citizens who are eager and well-prepared to change the world.

Whether it’s informing programming at National Public Radio, teaching civil rights law to future attorneys, or working on conservation issues in Alaska, Grinnellians prove every day that what we do on campus makes a difference around the globe.

The exceptional liberal arts education that Grinnell provides gives life to ideas, and has a lasting impact on personal lives, individual communities, and the entire world.

A Shared Responsibility

Our cause is simple: to help future Grinnellians live lives of purpose and make an even greater impact on the world; to provide robust, diverse opportunities that create globally informed and well-prepared graduates; to continue sparking deep conversations around real-world challenges; and to foster greater inclusion and understanding.

It’s a noble cause. One that requires us to come together to preserve the opportunities and values that make Grinnell, Grinnell.

And it’s imperative that we start today, by cultivating a stronger culture of giving to pay our life-changing experiences at Grinnell forward to future generations of change-makers.

Sustaining Excellence, Today and Tomorrow

Grinnell students come from diverse socioeconomic and family backgrounds. Our open and welcoming community is a second home to students from every state in the U.S. and some 50 nations. The Grinnell spirit resonates deeply with the best and brightest the world has to offer.

This multicultural, multisocioeconomic makeup of Grinnellians creates a community that helps open minds and form new thoughts, new ideas, and new solutions to global issues.

Our continued commitment to need-blind admission, our high level of student scholarship, and our conservative approach to student loans make this community possible.

Last year alone, 56% of the College’s budgeted operating revenue was covered by the endowment. We’re proud of this support, but know it is unsustainable in the long run. We want to ensure that the children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren of today’s Grinnellians have the same access to the outstanding education that Grinnell offers today.

Investing in Our Collective Future

Need-blind admission, community diversity, programs that support global opportunities — all the things that make Grinnell unique and in which our alumni take pride are at risk if we do not take immediate action to support them.

Only about 15% of Grinnell College students pay the cost of tuition, fees, and room and board (and even this does not cover the total cost of a Grinnell education). The vast majority of students receive financial aid — more than $50 million last year alone — much of which is covered by the endowment.

The Grinnell approach works. But it requires an ongoing commitment of resources. The investments we make to provide unfettered access to academic excellence and our holistic approach to education equips students to navigate a new and ever-changing world.

See how that investment can pay out on the following pages that show where Grinnellians are putting their purpose into action in the world.
Our first shared goal: To fund individually advised learning and mentored research.

Why it matters.
The more personal the education, the more powerful its impact. That’s why, despite the immense challenge of doing so, Grinnell provides a rigorous, four-year academic experience tailored to each student’s individual needs and interests.

An engaging, empowering education.
Individual advising and mentoring, generously subsidized experiential learning, research, travel — in addition to challenging classes — translate to graduates who are prepared to contribute to the world.

From coursework to lifework.
We find Grinnellians push themselves intellectually because they’re able to connect their studies to a purposeful future. Within six months after graduation, 97% of Grinnell graduates are in career employment, furthering their education, or doing service work in their communities.

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AMANDA HINCHMAN DOMINGUEZ ’17
Exploring the capabilities and potential of the open-sourced programming language Kotlin has been a passion of Amanda’s for years. Under the mentorship of Professor Sam Rebelsky, she explored this interest while majoring in computer science. In addition to her successful career as a software engineer at Yello, Amanda runs a popular technology blog, creates open-source tutorials for programmers, and has spoken at international conferences as an expert on Kotlin.
Offering twice as many internship opportunities (both in the United States and abroad) as we have students is expensive. And invaluable.

Mithila Iyer ‘19

Mithila Iyer’s Grinnell journey uncovered her passion for topics ranging from the depiction of women in French film to economic development, from international human rights to child trafficking.

Here, majors and mentors inspire causes and callings.

Our second shared goal: To provide avenues for deep personal exploration that lead to lives of purpose.

Why it matters.
Now, more than ever, the world needs people who live lives true to their core values — as leaders, employers, parents, volunteers, and citizens.

A history of activism.
Grinnell helps students explore issues of purpose, responsibility, and justice, on campus and beyond, just as we have since our founding. A dedication to truth and critical thought is evident in classrooms and discussions. Giving students an active voice cultivates independent thought and agency.

Center for Careers, Life, and Service.
Unique among colleges and universities nationwide, the Center for Careers, Life, and Service (CLS) is committed to connecting and integrating students’ interests and studies through hands-on experiences, internships, externships, and apprenticeships. From the moment they arrive on campus, students begin laying the foundation for their future.
From a small college in a small town comes a big PERSPECTIVE ON THE WORLD.

Our third shared goal: To provide the benefits derived from community — both the wide global community and the close-knit residential community.

Why it matters.
Diversity creates understanding and makes us stronger — as individuals and as a people. That’s why faculty and students hail from more than 50 countries, from a wide range of socioeconomic, cultural, and intellectual backgrounds. It’s also why we believe in having an open, safe, supportive, and welcoming environment for students to explore their personal identity.

The Institute for Global Engagement.
The Institute for Global Engagement (IGE) provides rich study-abroad and learning opportunities, incorporating global programming into the learning experience. More than half of our students complete an off-campus study; many learn another language. In today’s interconnected world, the ability to navigate societies and understand global systems is essential.

MORE THAN 150 STUDENT GROUPS HELP STRANGERS BECOME FRIENDS AND CULTIVATE NEW LEADERS. 500 COMMUNITY-BUILDING EVENTS, LECTURES, PERFORMANCES, AND SYMPOSIA ARE OFFERED FREE TO STUDENTS YEARLY.

DANIEL MALARKEY ’08
A global education, an intimate setting, and a whole collective of people invested in your success — that’s what led Daniel to his role as director of the David Gill Gallery in London, and ultimately founding his own Art Advisory. He now hosts events and speaking engagements for Grinnell student visitors and those studying in the Grinnell-in-London program.
Can you pay a life-changing journey forward?

OH YES.

“The joy I feel in helping complete strangers, I can’t monetize it — I really can’t. It’s an incredible void that we’re filling, and it’s a void that needs to be filled.”

MATHEOS MESFIN ’14

Matheos Mesfin’s transformative experience at Grinnell led him to create the Institute for East African Councils on Higher Education, a nonprofit that opens doors to higher education for immigrant and first-generation immigrant students of East African heritage. Matheos’ brainchild has helped hundreds of students attend top-notch colleges and ensure that East African communities in America have the opportunity to cultivate their full potential. Washingtonian magazine named Matheos a 2018 “Washingtonian of the Year.” In today’s ever-changing world, equipping students to contribute to the common good is more important than ever.

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Where do we go from here?
IT DEPENDS ON YOU.
It depends on all of us.

Make purpose possible.
Every single student’s education at Grinnell has been subsidized and supported for decades. Scholarships from the endowment as well as alumni and philanthropic contributions made it possible for every student to pursue their purpose. Even students who do pay the cost of tuition, fees, and room and board are not paying the entire cost of a Grinnell education.

Through diligent financial stewardship and disciplined management, Grinnell has been extremely fortunate to build a nearly $2 billion endowment. While this is a significant sum, our overdependence on the endowment to fund operating costs and financial assistance for students and academic programs has put the future of these programs at risk. Action must be taken today in order to meet our commitments tomorrow and for generations to come.

The future of Grinnell.
The world needs more Grinnellians, especially now. And we know this will still be true 20, 30 ... 100 years from now. But it takes incredible resources to sustain incredible outcomes.

Grinnell's excellence, its special place in the world, its incredible access and support for low-income students, and so much more, are only possible through the support of others.

We invite you to join us: attend an event, explore a volunteer opportunity, mentor a student, and most importantly, make a commitment to support the future of Grinnell and future generations of Grinnellians. We truly can’t do this without you. campaign.grinnell.edu

TOGETHER WE ARE GREATER
It’s our time to come together with our voices, our ideas — and yes, our money — to become part of a new culture of philanthropy. Find and engage your own passion for Grinnell, and help ensure every future student can discover their own passion and pursue their own purpose.

Because the world today, and tomorrow, needs more Grinnellians.