

Innovation & impact

2019 President's Report

Points of pride

Five years. It's not a long time, when viewed within the context of Wheaton's 185-year history. Yet it has been a significant period for the college just the same. Wheaton has grown, achieved and strengthened itself in myriad ways during the past five years, creating change that will be of long-lasting benefit to the institution and to the students we serve.

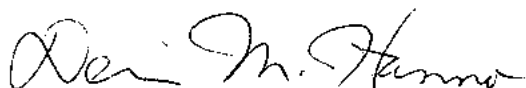
The difference is visible. Student enrollment has grown by more than 10 percent since 2014. This growth is significant on multiple levels, strengthening Wheaton's financial base while also increasing the energy and vitality of our campus community in ways that benefit all students. And of course, the increase in student enrollment has driven the opening of our beautiful new residence, Pine Hall.

Wheaton's growth reflects the fact that the high-quality liberal arts education for which the college is known remains in high demand. The college's innovative spirit has only enhanced that appeal. New interdisciplinary programs introduced by the faculty are among the most popular offerings at the college. And we are continuing to innovate—with new major courses of study, new programs designed to help students put their ideas into action and soon, a new curriculum that will make the most of the college's historic commitment to pairing rigorous liberal arts study with experiential learning.

These accomplishments, and many others, reflect the objectives set forth in our current strategic plan, "Growing Our Influence on the World," which was endorsed by the Board of Trustees in February 2016. The plan's overarching goal—to become the leading liberal arts institution in preparing students to create innovative solutions to big challenges, and to act on them—continues to guide us as we move forward. Our college is uniquely positioned to empower students to be innovative problem solvers in their personal, professional and civic lives.

The college's ability to continually push the boundaries of the liberal arts and make an impact on the world begins with people—dedicated and expert faculty and staff; energetic and talented students; and loyal and supportive alumni, parents and friends. At its core, Wheaton's excellence stems from our shared commitment to individualized education that is engaged with the world. We are growing and changing every day, always maintaining our central focus on preparing students to be leaders and changemakers.

Thanks for your interest in Wheaton and your support,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Dennis M. Hanno". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Dennis" and last name "Hanno" clearly legible.

Dennis M. Hanno
President



Strategic priorities

1

Build upon a cohesive academic and co-curricular student experience that fosters self-direction and empowers students to develop interdisciplinary solutions to critical issues.

2

Recruit, develop, and retain an exceptional and diverse faculty and staff who are committed to our student-centered mission.

3

Enhance the campus environment and infrastructure to meet students' needs and to support the innovative and high-quality curricular and co-curricular programs that shape their experiences.

4

Grow and steward our resources to support our aspirations and further broaden student access to a Wheaton education.

5

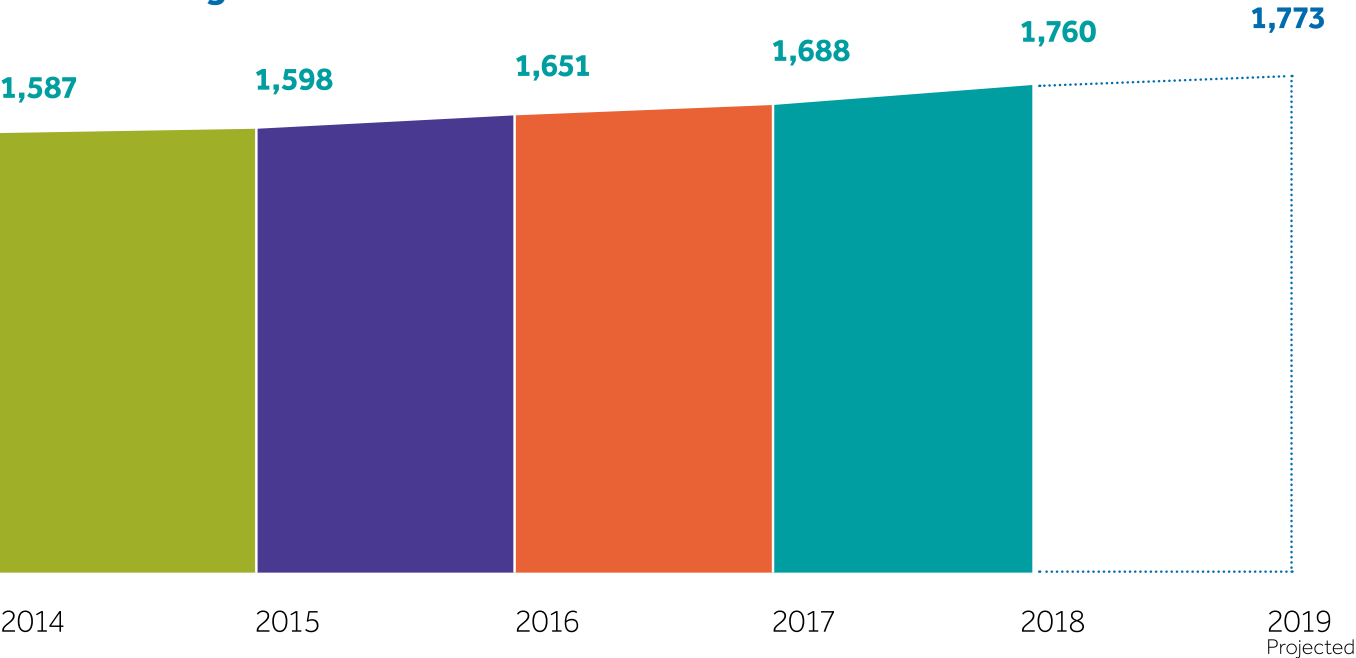
Increase the meaningful engagement of our alumni in the life of the college.



Wheaton today

Student enrollment is at an all-time high. And today's Wheaton students represent a broad range of backgrounds, interests and experiences.

Enrollment growth



Top 50 U.S. Liberal Arts College
Wall Street Journal and Times Higher Education, 2020

Top 20 "Best Science Lab Facilities"
and "Lots of Race/Class Interaction"
The Princeton Review, 2020

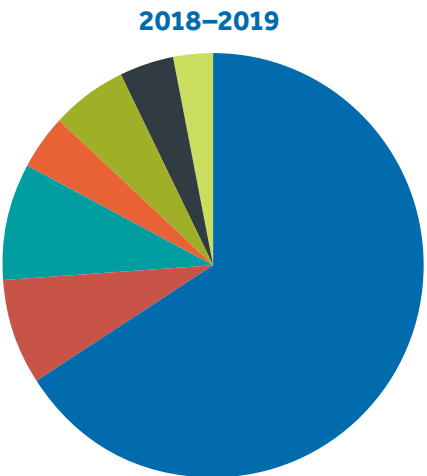
Top 20 College in the World
for Promoting Gender Equity
Times Higher Education University Impact Ratings, 2019

Top academic interests

Biology	Business and Management	Computer Science
Creative Writing	Film and New Media Studies	Neuroscience
Political Science	Pre-Medicine	Psychology

Student demographics

- White: 66%
- Non-U.S. citizen: 8%
- Hispanic American: 9%
- Asian American: 4%
- African American/Black: 6%
- Multiracial: 4%
- Unknown: 3%




37 U.S. states and territories
67 countries

61% women
39% men

21% first generation
Identified as students coming from a home where neither parent has earned a bachelor's degree



The Wheaton Edge



Wheaton's momentum begins with our commitment to combining the liberal arts with experiential learning. In 2015, the college launched the Wheaton Edge initiative to renew its highly distinctive educational programs.

The centerpiece of the effort features the college's guarantee that every student would have the opportunity for a funded internship, research position or other option for experiential learning. Every year, Wheaton invests more than \$1.2 million to ensure that students are able to apply their learning in real-world settings.

Leadership

Students take the lead in shaping campus life. They learn a lot and accomplish more because they are empowered to be leaders.

Innovative liberal arts

Wheaton is constantly pushing forward, exploring new possibilities and offering new opportunities and programs for our students. The world doesn't stand still and neither do we.

Personalized education

Each student is unique, and we strive to help every person follow their own path.

Experiential education

Wheaton guarantees every student the opportunity to access a funded internship, research collaboration, independent project or other experiential learning option.

Outstanding outcomes

Just six months after graduation, 97 percent of Wheaton alumni in the five most recent classes have secured full- or part-time employment, are pursuing graduate/professional degrees or are gaining career experience through internships, fellowships or service opportunities.*

* Outcomes data is based on a knowledge rate of 72% for the classes of 2014–2018.

Did you know?

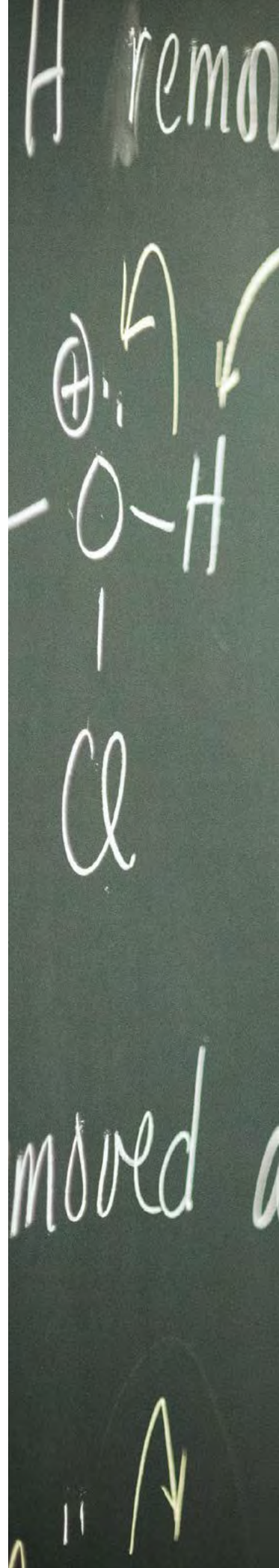
Since 2014, nearly 80 Wheaton graduates have earned prestigious international fellowships, such as Fulbright Scholarships, Watson Fellowships and Beinecke Scholarships.



Innovations in teaching and learning

Capping more than a year of research, discussion and study, the Wheaton faculty in spring 2019 overwhelming approved an innovative curriculum that builds on the Wheaton Edge and will launch with students entering in fall 2020.

The Compass Curriculum gives students the freedom and flexibility to create their own path to success, with personalized advising and professional mentorship. The curriculum encourages students to connect academics to career interests and builds on Wheaton's core principles of global citizenship, experiential learning, social justice, diversity and inclusion, collaborative community and intellectual curiosity.





Compass Curriculum explained

Elements for everyone

Connected First-Year Experience. Taught by faculty teams, the First-Year Experience course combines the deep discussions, reading and writing of a traditional first-year seminar with cross-discipline discovery, encouraging students to consider complex problems and questions through multiple lenses, right from the start.

Sophomore Experience. In their second year, students begin infusing their education with real-world experience and professional connections, through a required service or research project, internship, practicum, study abroad or other experiential opportunity.

The Major. Students must choose at least one major and meet course and experience requirements for those programs or may develop an independent major, working with faculty to craft an appropriate list of coursework. Students may also choose minors and/or additional majors, with additional course requirements.

Mentored Academic Pathway. Students will meet regularly with staff and faculty advisors as they craft their educational plan, follow up, reflect and refine that plan. A required portfolio will help students reflect on their experiences, set their goals and chart their course, present their work and share with employers and post-graduate programs.

More opportunities and choices

Honors Programs. Though not required, honors programs encourage all students to expand their studies in exciting ways—through global exploration, breadth of coursework, social justice and diversity and high academic standing. All honors will be noted on a student's final transcript.

Professional Experience and Mentorship. Other elements can be built into a student's path to guide and support them while encouraging them to develop key skills in their fields. These include:

- **LEAPS Certificate:** A set of elective courses that are skills-focused, interdisciplinary and experiential, overseen by both a faculty advisor and alumni mentor
- **Skills Courses:** Half-credit elective courses that help build specific professional and life skills

A tradition of innovation

The spirit of inquiry and experimentation that is central to learning permeates the Wheaton campus. Faculty, staff and students draw energy and inspiration from an educational culture that continually asks, "How can we be better?" That excitement fuels innovation in every part of the academic and co-curricular program.



Recent enhancements

New Courses of Study. The faculty have developed exciting majors and minors that leverage our academic strengths and reflect the interests of our students, including new majors in business and management, creative writing, education, film and new media studies, neuroscience and public health.

Social Innovation. The college has launched a slate of new programs that help students develop the skills to put their ideas into action now, including a semester-long seminar on social entrepreneurship, partnerships with social innovation organizations and the appointment of an endowed professor in social entrepreneurship (more on pages 12–13).

Personalized Advising. Academic Advising has been reorganized to focus on the success of each student by allowing students to work with the same advisor throughout their college career, thus creating more effective advising relationships.

Leadership Development. A new model for leadership education in co-curricular activities has been developed by a cross-divisional team from Academic Affairs and Student Affairs, and the new model is being implemented across a range of campus life programs and student leadership positions.

Immersive Learning. With support from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the faculty have piloted a number of short-term and semester-long study-away programs organized around specific topics in locations from Hawaii and Puerto Rico to New York and Miami.

Teaching and Learning. The opening of the Center for Collaborative Teaching and Learning has created a hub for faculty, staff and students to work together on developing innovative approaches to teaching and learning at Wheaton and taking a leadership role in sharing these ideas beyond campus.



An education with impact

The belief in the importance of the liberal arts drives the Wheaton community in its strategic goal to become known as a leader in promoting positive change through education. Over the past five years that objective has given rise to a full slate of programs that help students put their ideas and energy into action.

Wheaton Innovates Now encompasses a range of programs, partnerships and resources that are designed to help students develop their ideas for helping others and the skills to realize their vision. These programs are offered through the **WiN Hub**, which is the center for social entrepreneurship activities on campus.

To build entrepreneurial endeavors, Wheaton students can attend the **Social Entrepreneurship Launch Program** (SE Launch), which is offered during one week in January and one week in May in collaboration with the **Global Center for Social Entrepreneurship Network** (www.gcsen.com). The program includes general skill-building for entrepreneurs along with personalized counseling from a team of experts.

The WiN Hub offers many other opportunities throughout the year for students to develop their business ideas and skills. Located in the basement of the Doll's House, the WiN Hub is home to a plethora of programs. Recent programs include:

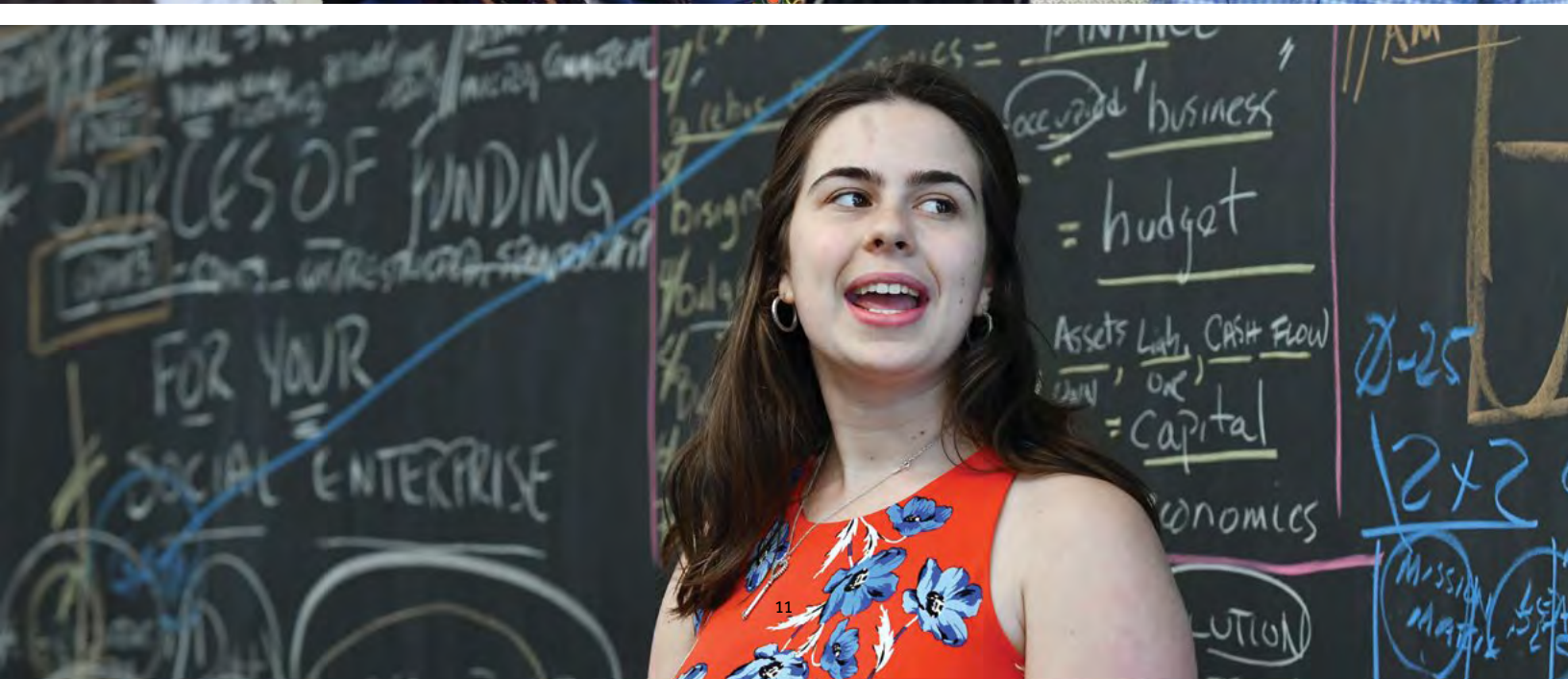
- Workshops on personal branding and negotiation
- SE Launch program reunion lunches
- Internship funding and professional development opportunities
- Student business pitch competitions
- "Pitch Practice, Pitch Perfect" coaching
- The Student Business Showcase
- Marketing Your Student Business workshop
- Attendance at the Ashoka U Exchange Conference in Boston
- Visits to the Social Entrepreneurship Greenhouse in Providence, R.I.

Changing the world together

The growth of Wheaton's programs in social entrepreneurship and social impact have been made possible by generous support from the Diana Davis Spencer Foundation and other donors who have strengthened the institution's position as a leader among liberal arts colleges in integrating social entrepreneurship education into the study of the liberal arts and sciences.

The foundation that bears the name of Trustee Emerita Diana Davis Spencer '60 pledged up to \$10 million, establishing an endowed professorship in social entrepreneurship, providing funds for entrepreneurial education programming and launching a fundraising challenge to create dedicated space for bringing social innovation programs into a single space.

The foundation's commitment, one of the largest philanthropic gifts in the college's history, makes Wheaton one of just a few liberal arts colleges nationwide, and the first in the Northeast, to establish an endowed professorship in social entrepreneurship.



Welcoming the world

Wheaton strives toward the highest standard of excellence—an inclusive educational environment that prepares a diverse population of women and men to be leaders in our complex, global society. This is an ongoing and multifaceted effort involving attention to everything from recruitment of students, faculty and staff to curricular, co-curricular and professional development programming.

Diversity, Inclusion and Equity. Working together, a team of faculty, staff and students developed a comprehensive set of plans for achieving an inclusive and diverse community of learners whose efforts are supported and whose identities are honored.

Diversity and Development. The college established the new position of Associate Provost for Diversity and Faculty Development and appointed the first individual to serve in that role.

Enhanced Recruiting. Increased faculty and staff diversity to the highest levels in at least a decade while implementing new hiring protocols for faculty and staff recruitment. These initiatives, supported by training for hiring managers and search committees, have helped the college increase the diversity of its faculty and staff.

Supporting Inclusion. In recent years, the college has increased the amount of training on diversity and implicit bias offered to staff, including a mandatory online program for all staff members.

Professional Development. The introduction of new cohort-style programs that provide opportunities to staff at all levels, including a project management course, and faculty-led programming, such as the Faculty Fora and the Write Now Right Now, that are focused on continuing professional development and scholarly pursuits.

Wheaton Summit for Women in STEM. Now entering its fourth year, the summit brings together hundreds of leaders in business, science and technology with undergraduates and faculty from institutions across New England for networking, research presentations and workshops at the college.

Inclusive Science Teaching. The college launched Wheaton Inclusive STEM Excellence (WISE), a multi-year project funded by the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, to develop new approaches to science education that will enhance student engagement and improve learning outcomes.







Enhancing campus life

Pine Hall opened in August 2019, expanding the college's residence hall capacity while completing a new quad area on lower campus between Young, McIntire and Clark, and the Meadows complex.

The 178-bed dorm is the first, large-scale residence in the Northeast to qualify for the rigorous Passive House standard for environmentally conscious design. It requires 70 percent less energy to heat and light than a comparable building that conforms to current design standards.

Pine Hall features an inviting gathering space that will serve all students on campus—Conger Commons (named for the late Nancy Pearlstine Conger '67 and her husband, William) includes a large main hall, kitchen area and a seminar classroom that looks out to Peacock Pond and Chapel Field.





Growing and improving campus

The beauty of the Wheaton campus continues to be an incredible resource for the college and an area of focused improvement. In addition to Pine Hall, Wheaton has focused on enhancing the campus through a mix of skillful renovations and well-designed improvements that meet the needs of current students.

Nourishing Community. The Chase and Emerson dining halls received a major upgrade in 2015–2016 with renovations that allowed the college to offer an expanded array of menu options. The Chase renovation also won LEED silver certification for its use of sustainable construction practices and design elements.

Technology for Learning. The renovation of academic spaces across campus has made possible the establishment of a network of makerspaces that students and faculty can use to build objects of all types and experiment with new technologies, from laser cutters and 3D printers to virtual reality spaces and a computer-operated loom.

Sustainability Initiatives. Wheaton installed solar power generation systems on several campus rooftops, a solar field adjacent to the main campus and retrofitted approximately 4,000 fixtures with high efficiency LEED lighting for anticipated annual savings of more than \$100,000.

Campus Renovations. The college has conducted restoration projects on iconic landmarks such as Cole Memorial Chapel's steeple and the Mary Lyon Hall cupola, as well as made significant investments in renovations to residence halls.

Improved Infrastructure. Wheaton has invested in several critical enhancements to campus infrastructure, including an upgrade of the power generation plant, network and phone system equipment improvements and system-wide updates of the Banner information management system.



Extending our reach

Wheaton is developing new programs that allow the college to leverage its considerable strength to serve new populations. Discover@Wheaton is an array of summer programs for the curious, innovative high school learner who is eager to explore a passion, become immersed in a rigorous learning environment, develop the skills necessary to succeed in college, and make an impact on the world.



Global Leaders Program

This two-week residential summer program brings together high school-age changemakers from around the world to learn the basics of social entrepreneurship, including how to develop and launch a real business with real impact, and gain insight into college life through discussions, classwork, field trips and other activities.



Business and Technology Immersion Experience

This four-week residential summer program gives motivated high school students the opportunity to enroll in a college-level course in either business and management or computer science. They earn credit alongside current college students and network with industry professionals from the area.



Jio Vichaar Entrepreneurship Challenge

New in 2019, this year-long competition, which was kicked off by a two-day workshop in Mumbai in June, brings together a dynamic community of secondary school innovators and entrepreneurs in India to develop extraordinary and viable solutions to impact our world. Teams are encouraged to think outside the box and develop innovative ventures that will make an impact in India.

Students are supported by an online learning program based on the social innovation and leadership program that the college offers on campus and in other settings around the world.

Wheaton is partnering with Reliance Jio, the leading company for mobile innovation in India, and Next Genius Foundation, the largest undergraduate study-abroad scholarship fund in India.

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WheaLead

This one-day seminar for high school students across the region offers promising young leaders an opportunity to join with peers to address some of the critical social topics of the day. Guided by Wheaton faculty and students, attendees work together to think globally about contemporary challenges and develop potential solutions, while developing the knowledge and tools necessary to provide a positive social impact.

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Week, Announce/Keep Post

Impact: Donate to

Vibrant community

The college's alumni, parents and friends form a generous, engaged and global community that powers Wheaton's success and connects people through a common interest in the power of the liberal arts.

Inclusive Focus. Wheaton hosted its first Alumni of Color Conference to honor the achievements of the college's community of students, alumni, faculty and staff, a three-day event organized by faculty, staff and alumni.

Young Alumni. The college has introduced new programs to expand the opportunities for alumni to connect with the college and each other, including launching a new "Welcome to Your City" series of events for young graduates.

Global Reach. Wheaton expanded its outreach to alumni living abroad with the addition of new events in Europe to complement those held in Asia and India, as well as the introduction of new peer-to-peer industry networking events in Singapore, Hong Kong and Beijing.

Digital Outreach. The college introduced a new app that connects alumni to each other and to Wheaton. It also has expanded its programming through webinars that connect alumni to campus activities and resources, including Career Crossroads sessions and academic enrichment on a variety of topics from Matisse in the Studio with Ellen McBreen to Collateral Damage: How Racism Affects White America with Dolita Cathcart.

Volunteer Engagement. The number of alumni volunteers to the Wheaton Fund increased by more than 25 percent in the past year, through dedicated recruitment efforts and the introduction of new online and in person training programs.

Athletic Reach. The college has intensified its efforts to involve alumni athletes in the life of the college with the establishment of an athletics advisory council. The Lyons Athletics Club (LAC) has helped to enhance Wheaton outreach events, including the annual LAC Golf Tournament, which has grown steadily in participation and philanthropic impact in recent years.





Welcome to WHEATON



Philanthropic momentum

The financial strength to innovate and enhance the programs on which students depend comes, in large measure, from the support of alumni, parents and friends.

- \$12,552,254 Gifts and pledges from alumni, parents and friends during the 2018-2019 fiscal year, which ended on June 30, 2019,
- \$5,001,273 Contributions to the Wheaton Fund, a record amount in the college's history.
- 3,840 Alumni and parents provided philanthropic support to Wheaton



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