



"Press Forward. Fear Nothing."

— Saint Katharine Drexel



Press Forward. Fear Nothing.


XAVIER UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA
CENTENNIAL CAMPAIGN



“If we wish to serve God and love our neighbor well, we must manifest our joy in the service we render to Him and them. Let us open wide our hearts. It is joy which invites us. ***Press forward and fear nothing.***”

— Saint Katharine Drexel

Dear Xavier University Community:



For nearly a century, students of color who have faced incredible challenges — racial suppression, first-generation enrollment, inadequate high school preparation and much more — have transformed their lives at Xavier. They've persevered, learned and grown in an experience they can't find elsewhere. Xavierites leave ready to take on the world, promote a more just and humane society and amplify impact across their communities.

It all started with our founder, Saint Katharine Drexel, who considered it immoral to deny Black and Native Americans higher-level education and invested her fortune to make real change. Her bravery allowed her to continue her work, and thus, help others to do what was right in service to the world.

Fast forward to today, and year after year, Xavier's graduates enter the work force in the top 70th percentile of earners in the U.S. with many coming from families who earn in the bottom 20th percentile. Xavier provides its students a path to living the American dream. That's impact.

Looking toward the next century, the world needs Xavier now more than ever, and to keep pressing forward, we ask you to join us, to walk toward the future – a future of supporting students, faculty and our campus in exciting new ways to produce exponential impact we can only have with your support.

I am honored and humbled to serve as Chairman of The Centennial Campaign for Xavier University and to serve her students.

Gladstone Jones

Campaign Chair

Dear Xavier Family and Friends:



In a few years, Xavier University will celebrate a remarkable achievement — 100 years since its founding by Saint Katharine Drexel and the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament. I am humbled and deeply honored as the second lay president to lead the university into a new century of academic excellence and service to the world.

As we gather to celebrate time, place and people — the generations of Xavier graduates, faculty, staff, supporters and leaders who have worked and achieved over the course of a century — what's immeasurable, priceless even, can be seen in Xavier's cascading impact throughout our communities, our country and the world. Black doctors transforming patient care, Xavierites leading by example to inspire young, aspiring physicians, engineers, authors, all leaders who say, "Press forward. Fear nothing."

Xavier defines progress. Through uncertainty and adversity, we have persevered, from our foundation by a Catholic nun as an institution to promote the higher-level education of Black and Native Americans and doing so in the face of fierce opposition, from hiding the Freedom Riders in St. Michael's Hall to

weathering Hurricane Katrina, surviving COVID and tackling the challenges we face every day. Our history runs through the fabric of society.

How will we continue to be of service for the next 100 years? Because we have the opportunity to produce more graduates who are the medical doctors, scientists, engineers, and pharmacists of tomorrow, leading among U.S. universities; because we will demonstrate what success looks like across all degree fields; because we will show the world the fruits of social mobility, Xavier will be of greater service to the world.

This campaign isn't one of choice — it's about accomplishing Xavier's mission to promote a more just and humane society. It's about increasing affordability and access through financial assistance; investing in student success, well-being and a prosperous future; matching our campus to our potential; and recruiting and retaining exceptional faculty and expanding academic programs.

It's about changing the world, one Xavierite at a time.

As Saint Katharine said, and as so many Xavierites have done before us, we will "Press Forward. Fear Nothing."

C. Reynold Verret, Ph.D.

President, Xavier University

100 years of *audacity*

Founded in **faith and fearlessness** 100 years ago by Saint Katharine Drexel, Xavier broke barriers with a focus on the future: a more just and humane society through higher-level education of Black and Native Americans.



100 more of *advances*

Now, standing at a threshold and looking toward the next century, we will **continue with courage** by deepening and broadening Xavier's reach so all students go forth to lead, serve, and better the world.



Setting the standard, being the change

Because it's not just about us, and it's not just about right now. It's about the exponential change Xavier creates throughout communities, spanning generations, across the world.

It's about setting an example. It's about being brave enough to turn what's possible into reality.

We're walking the talk.



Putting the sent in representation

As one of the nation's leading institutions for undergraduate education, we're producing more Black students who graduate from medical school, science, engineering, and pharmacy doctorates each year than any other university in the U.S.



Community, care, connection

We're championing economic and social justice by providing affordable education to students who earn 32% more early in their careers, increase their social mobility, and transform lives in the communities they serve.



A more just and humane society today

With a 93% job-placement rate, Xavier's graduates are creating a vital pipeline for diverse and highly skilled talent needed in our workforce and are paving the way for every class that comes after them.



Being the impact

Founded on *what if*, Xavier was an original disruptor. What if students we serve had access to a higher-level of education? What if we practiced racial tolerance in the face of hate? We're still asking what if, still breaking barriers: What if we produced more Black doctors and scientists? What if

we attracted exceptional faculty that created new pathways for students and representation?

What's possible is in our DNA, and we're poised for 100 more years of being the change we want to see. To do it, we will launch a bold campaign that calls on you to

ask what if: What if every deserving student could afford a Xavier education? What if they didn't have to worry about skipping meals? What if our campus environment matched our potential? What if we could expand faculty opportunities and invest in more academic programs?

We will press forward into a new Xavier century of world-changing impact by:



Increasing Affordability & Access Through Financial Assistance	\$250 M
Investing in the Well-Being & Success of the Entire Student	\$75 M
Matching Our Campus to Our Potential	\$105 M
Recruiting and Retaining Exceptional Faculty & Expanding Academic Programs	\$70 M
CAMPAIGN TOTAL: \$500 M	

PRIORITY

1

Increasing Affordability & Access Through Financial Assistance



PRIORITY

1

Increasing Affordability & Access Through Financial Assistance

Like students across the country today, many Xavierites struggle to meet the costs of college. The need for financial assistance is significant: 94% of our undergraduates apply for and receive some form of need-based financial aid.

We will break financial barriers and ensure equal access to our transformative education. With additional funding for financial support, we will focus on:

SERVING more students who can benefit from a Xavier education.

Financial aid packages can heavily influence a student's choice of school. As competition among leading colleges and universities grows fiercer, we must meet an increasing level of financial need to draw talented students from around the country who want to attend Xavier.

RETAINING more students to help them reach their goals.

Finances are a primary reason students are unable to complete their degree. When students must abandon their education, there is not only a long-term, negative impact to their own earning power and social mobility, but also an incalculable loss to our broader community.

SUPPORTING more students to ensure their dreams come true.

Financial pressure causes tremendous stress — Xavierites struggle with housing and food insecurity, constant worry of how to pay their tuition, and the toll of working long hours to make ends meet. With increased aid, the financial burden can be lifted, and students can instead focus on academics and a bright future.



PRIORITY

2

Investing in the Well-Being & Success of the Entire Student



PRIORITY

2

Investing in the Well-Being & Success of the Entire Student

Today's students also face tremendous demands and stressors — the typical challenges of college life plus the extraordinary challenges of our times: a global pandemic, a national racial reckoning, increasingly divided discourse, and a worsening economic downturn. It is critical that we have institutional supports in place to help keep our students healthy — mentally, physically, and spiritually.

We've launched innovative programs to address students' needs early on and where they are. We will continue the success of our lauded pre-medical programs while expanding support for students in all majors.

Xavierites deserve to have the resources to thrive, successfully graduate, and go on to serve and better the world with interpersonal skills that transcend life and into the workplace. We will focus on:

EARLY READINESS FOR SUCCESS

360-degree academic support:

Our Biomedical Honor Corps Summer Bridge Program, Pre-Med Intensive Summer Prep Program, Summer Start Institute, additional bridge programs, supplemental instruction, and advisors will provide full academic support at every level and area of study.

Career collaboration and

connection: One-on-one support, mock interviews, job search, and

resume instruction will provide students with motivation and strategy to find and land the best jobs and internships that will set them up for success.

2021

In 2021, The Princeton Review singled out Xavier as one of the nation's best institutions for undergraduate education.



An in-house nutritionist, food pantry, community garden, and more will encourage body and brain health so students can thrive in and out of class.

HEALTHY BODIES

Healthy eating: An in-house nutritionist, food pantry, community garden, and more will encourage body and brain health so students can thrive in and out of class.

Healthy living: Fitness instructors and fitness equipment available to students at all times will allow them to decompress and maintain and increase health for their bodies, souls, and minds.

HEALTHY MINDS

Spiritual support: University and interfaith chaplaincy will provide spiritual guidance and grounding when our students need it the most.

Mental health and wellness: A full-time medical director and staff psychiatrist will help students navigate very human struggles during a challenging phase of life.



#5

Xavier landed as #5 on U.S. News' list of Most Innovative Schools in 2022.

PRIORITY

3

Matching Our Campus to Our Potential



PRIORITY
3

Matching Our Campus to Our Potential

“Do they too not deserve the best?”

Saint Katharine Drexel didn't hesitate in a 1932 New York Times interview when asked why she was investing in a campus for Black students.

Today, Xavierites are taking what they know far beyond its walls, strengthening generations and communities old and new.

We will continue to provide our students with the best, most innovative learning environment by upgrading our campus to match where we know our students can go.

We will make state-of-the-art renovations and begin new construction on enhanced learning and living for our students. We will enrich the entire Xavier community, and we will inspire pride campus-wide by:

Renovating the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament Convent.

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament Convent is in need of repairs and updates. We envision a repurposed Convent as the centerpiece of campus, offering the opportunity for students and others to deepen their

understanding of our Catholic faith and African American tradition.

Modernizing Science Labs to Support Exceptional Study.

Science is one of our signature strengths, but to educate the next generation of scientific and medical leaders, we need more — and more advanced — laboratory space. We will provide cutting-edge

learning and research spaces in labs and update equipment so that students practice skills that will ensure success for graduate school and industry opportunities.

93%

Xavier has a 93% job placement rate. With Xavier's growing visibility as a vital pipeline for diverse and highly skilled talent, our alumni are in demand.



To upgrade Xavier toward a more sustainable, community-connected environment, we will add a Performing Arts and Arts Exhibition Space as well as an Athletic Field for Intramural Sports.

Building a new and vibrant Residential Hall. New student housing is long overdue. With a range of modern amenities, conveniences, and environmental features, the new residential space will accommodate student housing with more rooms and beds and will provide dedicated spaces for study, collaboration, and socialization.

Creating a Sustainable Campus for the Xavier of Tomorrow. To upgrade Xavier toward a more sustainable, community-connected environment, we will add a Performing Arts and Arts Exhibition Space as well as an Athletic Field for Intramural Sports. We also will create a next-generation energy campus with new and improved infrastructure.



32%

A recent study shows that Xavier students earn 32% more six years after graduation than students with similar profiles who attended other universities.

PRIORITY

4

Recruiting and Retaining Exceptional Faculty & Expanding Academic Programs



PRIORITY

4

Recruiting and Retaining Exceptional Faculty & Expanding Academic Programs

Central to our winning formula at Xavier is our exceptional faculty, who invest their expertise and passion into the student experience and instill leadership in our graduates.

We will honor the immeasurable impact of our faculty and ensure we continue to recruit and retain professors at the top of their fields through competitive salaries and endowed chairs.

We also will build on our renowned work in business and entrepreneurship, teacher preparation, and (STEM) with more multifaceted programs that will nourish our scientific, cultural, artistic and religious roots while innovating in a rapidly changing world and marketplace.



WE WILL FOCUS ON:

Enhanced faculty investment:

- 10 new faculty chairs
- Increased salaries
- Visiting professorships
- Research initiatives
- Faculty award programs
- Start-up funds and Professional Development
- Support for the Center for the Advancement of Teaching and Faculty Development

DEVELOPING ACADEMICS FOR THE FUTURE:

- African-American Diasporic Cultural Studies
- Institute for Pastoral Studies
- Health Care Management
- Data Science and Analytics



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:

The Center for Equity, Justice, and the Human Spirit develops programming to shift oppressive policies and practices in the fields of education, criminal justice, and environmental sustainability. New programs will include:

Summer Faculty-in-Residence Program: A collaborative research roundtable that convenes external scholars from doctoral universities and Xavier faculty with unifying themes of inquiry.

Faculty Fellowship Program: An incentive program that encourages research projects to address social inequities and collaboration among faculty, students, and community stakeholders.

1 & 9

Xavier is ranked #1 among all HBCUs in providing for social mobility — and #9 among 500 universities nationwide — moving students from the lowest socio-economic tiers to a higher tier.

Join Us

For 100 years, Xavier has broken barriers and promoted a more just and humane society, helping shape the nation and our world through education and representation.

But our work isn't done: At the crossroads of 100 more years of impact, we have the power to transform lives through affordable education, student success and well-being, a state-of-the-art campus environment, rigorous academic programs, and top faculty who want to make a difference.

Xavier is ready — to exponentially unlock access as our graduates personify societal change for generations.

We're ready to press forward and fear nothing for the next 100 years. Are you?

