

Annual Impact Report 2020-2021

BELLARMINE UNIVERSITY



This executive summary is an overview of the important work Bellarmine University is doing to educate students in mind, body and spirit for meaningful lives of leadership and service and to strengthen Louisville and the region.

PRIORITY 1: Distinctive, Transformative Student Experience

3,147

Total enrollment for Fall 2021, including 2,406 undergraduate and 741 graduate students

58%

Percentage of first-year students who **participated in three or more activities**

1,875

Total student events hosted, maintaining togetherness and community during the pandemic

1,815

Graduates from 2020 and 2021 who were recognized during the **largest commencement weekend in the university's history**

Student Outcomes for Class of 2020

98%

Working or continuing education within six months of graduation

92%

Pursuing full-time opportunities in their career field of interest

87%

Participated in 90+ hours of experiential learning as an undergraduate student (internships, research, teaching, clinicals)

73%

Remained in Louisville after graduation

PRIORITY 2: Academic Innovation and Excellence

The university created or enhanced the following academic programs:

- Launched Master of Health Science in Biomedical Sciences
- Health Professions Education certificate program
- Bachelor's degree in Neuroscience
- Bachelor's degree in Environmental Justice & Sustainability
- Bachelor's degree in Integrated Studies (degree completion initiative)
- Women of Color Entrepreneurs–Leadership Certificate (non-credit)
- Ph.D. in Health Professions Education and RN-to-BSN programs now entirely online

Federal grants to enhance academic excellence through new initiatives:

- New STEM Career Pathways Scholarships from the National Science Foundation = \$988,470
- New Interdisciplinary Degree in Health, Culture and Compassion from the National Endowment for the Humanities = \$100,000

PRIORITY 3: Geographical and Diversity Expansion

Of our 593 first-year students enrolled for Fall 2021:

25%

are students of color, up from 22% in Fall 2020 and representing the most diverse class ever at Bellarmine.

38%

are first-generation students, compared to 33% in Fall 2020.

29%

were Pell Grant-eligible, compared to 28% in Fall 2020.

20%

are student-athletes, compared to 19% in Fall 2020.

81

are transfer students, compared to 52 in Summer/Fall 2020, the highest number since 2016.

Bellarmine's rise to NCAA Division I vastly increased national exposure for the university:

7B

Total local and national media impressions – a 205% increase over the previous year

2.7B

Athletics media impressions for the Knights' first season in NCAA Division I, with women's and men's basketball competing in Freedom Hall – a 263% increase over impressions in the final Division II season

#1

ASUN Academic Champion: In its first NCAA Division I season competing in the ASUN Conference, the Bellarmine Knights finished atop the conference's academic standings for student excellence in the classroom

88%

of student-athletes earned a GPA of at least 3.0

PRIORITY 4: Equity and Inclusion Commitment

\$360K

U.S. Department of Education Grant to support Center of Excellence for Veteran Student Success (only one of its kind at a private school in the region)

96%

Completion rate by first-year students (Fall 2020 cohort) for new Diversity, Equity and Inclusion training module

- Completed a campus accessibility audit during the Spring 2021 semester, focused on improvements in climate, technology, physical resources and accessibility as an important aspect of diversity
- 120+ cultural events, workshops and training sessions offered
- Finalized a new affirmative action plan, with new trainings and resources under development to support that plan's implementation

PRIORITY 5: Meaningful Engagement and Partnerships

Butterfly Project at Central High School: This data science internship and community engagement program pairs students from Central High Magnet Career Academy and Bellarmine into teams that use data to find solutions to social challenges in education, health, housing, jobs and justice. Partners include the Louisville Urban League, Humana and Microsoft Future of Work.

Bellarmine Center for Community Engagement: This new initiative leverages university expertise and resources to meet needs in Louisville and the surrounding region while helping students connect with meaningful, purpose-driven work and experiential learning opportunities.

PRIORITY 6: Enhance Access and Affordability

\$68M+

Bellarmine's total investment in institutional student aid

\$18M+

Bellarmine's investment in institutional aid for first-year students

Initiatives launched in 2020-21:

Public Price Promise: This scholarship matches the direct cost of qualifying undergraduate students' state flagship university for tuition, fees, room and board, typically reducing the cost of attending Bellarmine by as much as half.

OnCourse: All undergraduate and graduate students receive all required books and other educational materials at a reduced cost as part of their tuition.

Office of Development and Alumni Relations

\$6.7M

Total donor financial support of the university's students and signature initiatives

\$2.2M

Athletics gifts and sponsorships in inaugural NCAA Division I season

\$431,000

Record amount raised in 24 hours for annual Day of Giving