

BELLARMINA UNIVERSITY

ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT 2019-2020

Tradition and Transformation

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.

COVID-19 RESPONSE

To keep students safe and ensure they remained successful, Bellarmine:

- Ensured continuity in academic advising, registration, student success and academic support services.
- Launched a COVID-19 website.
- Accelerated implementation of test-optional policy from Fall 2021 to Fall 2020.
- Created flexible work schedules and rotations for employees.

1,008

Unique course sections migrated to online platforms with the assistance of 387 faculty members and the Distance Education team led by Adam Elias, Director of Innovative Learning Systems.

\$190K

Developed a Knights Helping Knights campaign, raising more than \$190K from more than 460 donors for students' emergency needs.

PRIORITY 1: DISTINCTIVE, TRANSFORMATIVE STUDENT EXPERIENCE

Impressive Retention Improvements

83.8%

Percentage of students retained in the Fall 2019 cohort, highest sophomore retention since the 2004 cohort and +4.6 percentage points above our 10-year average.

71.4%

Percentage of students retained in the Fall 2018 cohort, the highest it's been since the 2012 cohort and +1.1 percentage points above the 10-year average.

69.1%

Percentage of students retained in the Fall 2017 cohort, the highest it's been since the 2012 cohort and +2.0 percentage points above the 10-year average.

64.9%

The fifth-year graduation rate for the 2015 cohort was +0.5 percentage points better than the 10-year average and +1.6 percentage points above the 20-year average.

Student Outcomes for Class of 2019

99%

Percentage of 2019 graduates working or continuing education within six months of graduation

91%

Percentage of 2019 graduates who were pursuing full-time opportunities in their career field of interest

79%

Percentage of graduates who participated in 90+ hours of experiential learning (internships, research, teaching, clinicals)

73%

Percentage of graduates who remained in Louisville

PRIORITY 2: ACADEMIC INNOVATION AND EXCELLENCE

The university created the following new academic programs:

- Early entry model for Master of Arts in Teaching, allowing undergraduate students to complete the MAT in five years
- Bachelor of Science in Data Sciences
- Bachelor of Arts in Physics
- Communications Minor in TV News and Sports
- Certificate in Health Professions Education

Appointments in academic leadership:

- W. Fielding Rubel School of Business: Dr. Natasha Munshi, Dean
- Bellarmine College of Arts and Sciences: Dr. Mary Huff, Dean (from interim); Dr. Pam Cartor and Laura Hartford, Associate Deans
- Annsley Frazier Thornton School of Education: Dr. Elizabeth Dinkins, Dean (from interim); Dr. Kristen Cook, Associate Dean

Schwarzman Scholar

Mary Wurtz of Crestview Hills, Ky., is the inaugural Bellarmine graduate to be named a Schwarzman Scholar—one of 145 selected. She was scheduled to head to China in August for a year at Tsinghua University in Beijing, although the start date has been delayed by the pandemic.

PRIORITY 3: GEOGRAPHICAL AND DIVERSITY EXPANSION

Of our 573 first-year students enrolled for Fall 2020:

22%

are students of color, up from 18% in Fall 2019 and representing an all-time high at Bellarmine.

33%

are first-generation students, compared to 32% in Fall 2019.

27%

were Pell Grant-eligible, compared to 24% in Fall 2019.

19%

are student-athletes, compared to 22% in Fall 2019.

17%

are in the Honors Program, compared to 16% in Fall 2019.

Military-Affiliated Students

Number of military-affiliated students in Spring 2020 represented a 57% increase over Spring 2019.

Athletics

Submitted formal NCAA Division I application on July 1, 2020, marking Bellarmine's first day as a reclassifying DI member.

Graduate and Second-Degree Students

- Summer 2020 semester experienced some of the highest enrollments for the graduate and second-degree programs.
- Graduate Student Enrollment for Fall 2020: 205 new graduate and second-degree students enrolled.

PRIORITY 4: EQUITY AND INCLUSION COMMITMENT

- Appointed inaugural Chief Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Officer, Dr. Donald Mitchell, Jr.
- Conducted institution-wide faculty and staff DEI training in spring 2020.
- Launched Diversity, Equity and Inclusion website
- Established affinity groups (Assisi Pride Network and Bellarmine Black Caucus)

PRIORITY 5: MEANINGFUL ENGAGEMENT AND PARTNERSHIPS

70

External meetings conducted to **explore and develop strategic partnerships.**

90

Internal meetings conducted to **explore and develop strategic partnerships.**

21

Significantly engaged 21 of the 25 **largest employers in Metro Louisville.**

- Established a cross-collaborative Strategic Partnership Team to pursue high-value university opportunities that require community engagement and multiple university departments.
- Significantly engaged the 10 largest foundations in Metro Louisville.
- Established new partnerships with Masonic Homes of Kentucky, Nativity Academy and Okolona Elementary School.

PRIORITY 6: ENHANCE ACCESS AND AFFORDABILITY

Financial Aid

\$65M

Invested more than **\$65M** in institutional aid

\$18M

Invested more than **\$18M** in first-year institutional aid

- Set an undergraduate tuition and fee increase of 1.5%, consistent with previous year
- Once again did not increase room and board rates
- Summer 2020 UG enrollment headcount and credit hours were up compared to Summer 2019: +44.8% credit hours (3,197 vs. 2,208) and +23.9% headcount (628 vs. 507) (excludes accelerated bachelor of science in nursing students and accounting certificate students).

Office of Development and Alumni Relations

\$9,810,070

Secured in total support—a **56% increase over FY19** despite **COVID-19 halting most major gift fundraising for the last quarter.**

- Secured \$2,966,313 in Annual Fund Support, a 22% increase over goal.
- Developing and beginning a Division I athletic campaign, with the total secured for DI initiatives standing at \$5.088M, including 14 unique donors committing amounts ranging from \$50,000 to \$1M.
- Hired an Associate Athletic Director for Development and launched Athletics Knight Club, raising an initial \$42,095.