



BELLARMINE
UNIVERSITY



STUDENT AFFAIRS IMPACT REPORT

2024 - 2025

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

As we reflect on the last year, I am thrilled to share how our Division of Student Affairs is making a significant impact on our students, community, campus and beyond. While recognition and rankings are not the only way to measure success, this year has been remarkable. Our students ranked Bellarmine in the Top 10% of all U.S. post-secondary institutions for providing a supportive campus environment. We truly strive to challenge and uplift our Knights.

We are also proud to announce that we received the 2024 Elective Carnegie Community Engagement Distinction. This honor highlights our dedication to meaningful community engagement and volunteerism, showcasing how we live our mission in Louisville and beyond.

Our talented professional staff participated in competitive conferences, sharing best practices and gaining insights to enhance student success and engagement. We leave no stone unturned in creating opportunities for our students to thrive.

This past year, we focused on fostering a strong sense of belonging, encouraging students to reflect on their goals, and supporting their academic journeys. We've emphasized holistic wellness and inclusive interactions among students. I am incredibly proud to be a Knight and excited about our future together.

Warm regards,



HELEN GRACE RYAN, PH.D., VICE PRESIDENT FOR STUDENT AFFAIRS

Our Values

Bellarmino University finds its Catholic identity in the inclusive spirit of Thomas Merton. We believe in the search for the true self, the interconnectedness of life and the solidarity of the human spirit, which transcends ethnic, religious, and social divisions. We educate the whole person to realize his or her highest potential as part of an interconnected world. Our values are Academic Excellence, Intrinsic Dignity, Social Responsibility, Integrity, Hospitality, and Stewardship.

Academic Excellence: Promoting academic inquiry rooted in the liberal arts tradition—critical thinking, communication, collaboration, creativity, and compassion—with an expectation of excellence

Intrinsic Dignity: Respecting the intrinsic value and dignity of every individual

Social Responsibility: Cultivating grounded citizens who contribute to and advocate for the public good, environmental sustainability, global understanding, and informed civic engagement

Integrity: Fostering strong ethical principles, honesty, fairness, transparency, and trustworthiness

Hospitality: Creating an inclusive community that welcomes all and models a spirit of goodwill

Stewardship: Exercising thoughtful stewardship of our university resources

Division of Student Affairs Mission

Guided by our commitment to Bellarmine's mission and Catholic values, the Division of Student Affairs provides transformative, holistic educational experiences. We empower students to lead authentic lives and serve the common good in a global community.

About the Division of Student Affairs

Our division supports students academically, socially, emotionally, and spiritually. Alongside our dedicated faculty, we offer co-curricular opportunities that promote growth in every aspect of student life.

This report highlights four key initiatives from Bellarmine's Strategic Plan, focusing on **The Transformative Student Experience**, which aligns perfectly with our IMPACT initiative.

1. **Academic Engagement and Student Success**
2. **Involvement and Sense of Belonging**
3. **Wellness**
4. **Career, Calling, and Purpose**

This annual report showcases our student-centered programs that transform the lives of Bellarmine students.

Engagement & Student Success

We create meaningful connections through purposeful programs and services, ensuring student success and persistence.

17 students participated in the Access BU early-arrival program, which supports first-year students with learning differences.

Together, we logged **28,205 hours** of community service--an all-time high driven by increased opportunities and partnerships, along with the adoption of GivePulse to promote opportunities.

Bellarmino received an All In - Most Engaged Campus designation for our work in community and voter engagement

The second annual Men in Leadership Retreat nearly doubled its engagement over the first year with **29 participants**. Matched by a **5-year high in attendance** at the Women in Leadership Banquet.

Esports continued to grow, **doubling in size**--going from 4 to 10 competitive teams and going from 20 to 40 active players.

A revamped transfer student orientation engaged **97% of new transfer students** to help guide their transition to Bellarmine.

Attendance was up 47% at the Campus Engagement Awards as students took time to celebrate the campus community and recognize the hard work of student leaders and organizations.

Spiritual Peer Mentors logged a total of **8,390 interactions** with **600 students**, an **18% increase** in interactions.

“ I loved every bit of [The Women’s Leadership Retreat]. It keeps me coming back every year. I love the presenters, the familiar faces, the vibes, the activities, the critical thinking, everything. I truly think this leadership embodies how to be a woman and be a leader. I will be coming back next year, can’t wait! ~ Undergraduate Student ”

Belonging

We foster an inclusive environment where students explore their identities and engage in social justice.

We hosted **2,279 events** on campus to bring our community together.

The Accessibility Resource Center saw a **75% increase** in attendance at weekly community lunches for Access BU participants.

372 students received accommodation services, marking a 2% increase from last year and a **13% increase** over the past two years.

Housing and Residence Life hosted **218 programs**, reaching **5,454 students**, a **5-year high** in student participation.

Resident Assistants (RAs) logged a total of **5,117 intentional one-on-one interactions** focused on connection, wellness, or academic success.

We supported **1,014 residential students on-campus** and an **additional 50 students** at partner locations--totaling the highest count in a decade.

The Knights of Color Program engaged **46 students of color** and saw first-year retention at **15% higher** than the campus average.

The Student Activities Center launched a new app, Knights Engage, that puts engagement and connection opportunities at the fingertips of students.

“I’m here today because of the support the Accessibility Resource Center provided. Y’all are the best.

~ Undergraduate Student

Wellness

We promote a culture of well-being that encourages lifelong healthy practices.

The Counseling Center reduced economic barriers to psychological testing by providing Learn Disability (LD) and ADHD assessments to students for the first time--conducting **12 evaluations** in the program's first year.

Health Services conducted tabling events where **68% of participants** reported learning something new about the importance of getting an annual flu vaccine.

A new training sequence graduated **40 staff and students** as recipients of the Mental Health Champion micro-credential.

Public Safety expanded its education program to reach **450 community members** about campus safety, a **300% increase** from last year.

278 unique students participated in intramural sports.

A new Outdoor Recreation program hosted events and recorded **over 100 equipment rentals**.

Our Knight's Pantry provided **545 students** with meals through **1,516 visits**.

Implementation of the Health Services Patient Portal **improved immunization compliance to 80%**.

“The campus resources are amazing for our community. They try to help as many people as possible and improve when possible.”
~ Undergraduate Student

Purpose

We empower students to discover their passions and create meaningful career paths.

Our community contributed an **all-time high of 28,205 community engagement hours** through curricular and co-curricular opportunities.

Our first destination outcomes show an impressive **99% success rate** for graduates with **97% in field**.

New Faculty Open Houses during Week of Welcome connected **232 first-year students** with faculty mentorship with their academic college.

Career Development created **2,537 student engagements** through career programs like Career Week, **up 25% over 2023-24**.

An all-time high **18 Community Engaged courses** were available through support from the Center of Community Engagement.

1,249 career advising appointments occurred, supplemented by a **30% increase** in the number of virtual resume review requests.

100% of students said that the Alumni Mentor Program helped them learn new skills and useful knowledge to guide their career planning (up from 88% in 2024).

“The [Alumni Mentor] Program exceeded my expectations, and my Alumni Mentor was amazing and just as excited as I was!

~ Undergraduate Student

Thank you

Thank you for your ongoing support as we continue to create a vibrant, inclusive community at Bellarmine. Together, we are making a difference in the lives of our students.

Warmly,

Helen Grace Ryan, Ph.D.

Vice President for Student Affairs