

A College Education for All

Talking points for gift officers

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This paper explains how Northeastern provides a number of scholarship and funding opportunities to bridge the inequity gap among students—and the ways in which donors can support these efforts toward a more diverse and inclusive student body.

Prelude: To many, a college education is just another step in a young person’s personal and educational journey—but to some, it’s an opportunity that is neither promised nor expected. The disparities are clear: Privilege, demographics, and socioeconomic status play a significant role in the trajectory of a student’s post-grade school path. These inequities prevent fresh, new generations from earning their degrees because of factors out of their control.

But from its very beginnings, Northeastern has existed to make education more accessible for all. We know our communities thrive when diverse minds come together, and that can only be done by serving and elevating disadvantaged and underrepresented students and their studies, offering them the following robust scholarships and support:

Scholarships

One of the most powerful tools to help students attain higher education is financial support. Funds geared toward helping bridge the inequity gap reflect our commitment to diversity and inclusion. They give newfound opportunity to young people who have both strong academic promise and demonstrated financial need.

Resilience Funding

“Resilience funds” provide scholarships to our first generation or low income students to pay non-tuition related expenses and to cover unexpected emergency expenses. By helping these students with expenses such as housing, food, technology, books, access to digital resources, and personal, family, and medical emergencies, we can ensure that they will remain enrolled and persist to graduation. After all, there is much more to university expenses than just tuition.

Donors can establish current use funds or endowed funds to cover the following types of expenses (\$25,000 current use or \$100,000 endowed minimum):

- Meals on campus or groceries
- Toiletries
- Books, school supplies, and access to digital resources for classes and labs
- Eyeglasses
- T passes

- Coats and boots
- Health insurance, copays for doctor visits, and other medical expenses
- Professional clothing for interviews or coop jobs
- Lab fees
- Lost income
- Emergency rent coverage
- Loss of property to flood or fire or theft (laptops, clothing, furniture)
- Travel expenses home for unexpected emergencies

Unrestricted gifts can be made to the **We Care Emergency Fund Designation Code 644599**. For additional information, please contact Keyne Cahoon, Director of Student Success and the WeCare Fund, at k.cahoon@northeastern.edu or 617-373-7410.

Experiential Funding

The Northeastern experience goes far beyond coursework—and also includes its signature co-ops, countless clubs, organizations, and teams that foster experiential learning and camaraderie. The connections students make during their college years can be lifechanging—and sometimes require funding to cultivate. Experiential learning funds remove financial obstacles that allow underrepresented and disadvantaged students the same opportunities as their peers, in and out of the classroom.

Donors can establish current use funds or endowed funds to support (\$25,000 current use or \$100,000 endowed minimum):

- Support for transformational unpaid co-op opportunities
- Support for co-ops in other cities or abroad
- Support for study abroad
- Leadership programming
- Alternative spring breaks
- Professional development
- Student research funding
- Attendance at conferences, workshops, or seminars
- Mentoring

Unrestricted gifts can be made to the **Global Experience Fund Designation Code 644562**.
University Parents, Alumni, and Friends Co-op Support Fund Designation Code 365456

Student Support

Support is critical for our students from underrepresented groups so that they become active and engaged leaders who are prepared to reach new heights following graduation. Below are just a few of our programs for students from underserved backgrounds, and each one can do even more with philanthropic investment:

[The John D. O’Bryant African American Institute](#). Legacy. Excellence. Culture. Community. Success. Service. Those are the words used to describe the John D. O’Bryant African American Institute. Named for the first African American appointed as vice president at Northeastern, the Institute strives to live up to its namesake. Boston Police Commissioner William G. Gross, who serves as the city’s first Black police commissioner, describes O’Bryant as someone who was a “trailblazer who fought to ensure that Black students receive an equal education” and was “instrumental in breaking stereotypical views and perceptions of people of color.”

Grounded in O’Bryant’s values, the institute fosters a nurturing and supportive environment, welcoming Black students and others of African descent through programs, resources, services, and activities. The voices and energy that come from the institute’s community are powerful and deserve to be elevated. Through philanthropic support, the lives of the students who find inspiration within The John D. O’Bryant African American Institute can be enriched today and in the future.

Fundraising opportunities for the John D. O’Bryant African American Institute:

- All gifts are accepted and will be used to further the mission and goals of the Institute. Gifts can be credited to fund #300064.
- Gifts of \$25,000+ will allow for the establishment of a named spendable fund to payout funds to support the mission and goals of the institute.
- Gifts of \$100,000+ will allow for the establishment of a named endowment fund to provide income to be used to further the mission and goals of the institute.

Please contact Richard O’Bryant at r.o'bryant@northeastern.edu with any questions.

Donors can establish current use funds or endowed funds to support (\$25,000 current use or \$100,000 endowed minimum):

- Leadership programming
- Alternative spring breaks
- Professional development
- Attendance at conferences, workshops, or seminars
- Mentoring
- Cultural and artistic experiences

Unrestricted gifts can be made to Designation Code 300064.

A similar gift could also be established for any of these centers (note the designation codes for unrestricted gifts):

- **Latinx Student Cultural Center** Designation Code 365425

- **The Asian American Center** Designation Code 300248
- **LGBTQA Center** Designation Code 390100

Side bar: The institute began taking shape in early 1968, in the wake of the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr. and the fatal shooting of three Black students by police on the campus of South Carolina State University. In the spring of 1968, a group of Black students at Northeastern requested a meeting with university leadership to present their demands for greater access to university resources, increased recruitment and enrollment, new scholarships, and more academic programs focused on African and African American history and culture. Asa Knowles, the president of Northeastern at the time, expressed his support, and the John D. O’Bryant African American Institute was born out of the work that followed.

- **The General Studies Program**. Offering personalized advising and mentoring, the General Studies Program enables Northeastern students to explore their interests, access support, and connect with the campus community. Approximately 100 students a year—some from underresourced low-performing school systems, some from rigorous athletic programs, and some who have yet to choose a major—benefit from skilled instructors, committed advisors, and a peer tutoring program to ensure their success. It is crucial that these students receive the extra support to become the best versions of themselves in their personal and educational journeys.

Donors could provide support for (\$25,000 current use or \$100,000 endowed minimum):

- Two Learning Disability Program scholarships for \$20,000 per year to provide two students with testing and support for two semesters.
- NU Student Health Plan medical insurance: to help students access physical and mental health resources that they need to succeed: approx. \$2,100 per single student in FY 21 (so approx. \$100,000 will provide approx. 8-9 students with NUSHP over five years).

Unrestricted gifts can be made to **University Health and Counseling Services Fund Designation 355166** or to the **Disability Resource Center Student Equipment Fund Designation Code 650269**.

For more information, contact Lynn Dornink, Director (l.dornink@northeastern.edu).

Impact Today and Tomorrow

One of Northeastern’s strengths is always striving to implement positive changes for the betterment of the communities in which we play a role. To continue doing so, we must create experiences that exemplify and showcase this sentiment—especially for our underrepresented students. This impact will reverberate further when these students pass the torch to the next generation.

Although we do not know exactly what society will look like for them, we do know that the Northeastern experience will set up them up to be nimble, thoughtful, and powerful—and encourage their networks to grow, succeed, and thrive just as they did.