
FORWARD TOGETHER
The story of Ohio Northern University began with a distinct vision—to transform a community through education. ONU founder Henry Solomon Lehr, a Union Army veteran and country schoolmaster, was driven by a passion to connect students with opportunities to use their knowledge, skills and intellect to benefit society.

Now, more than 150 years after Ohio Northern University’s founding, we continue to grow and adapt to the changing landscape of higher education and the world at large. Always, our purpose and personality have stayed true to our roots. Through a tradition of rigorous professional preparation integrated with an excellent liberal arts education and the cultivation of civic responsibility, students are positioned to transform the world around them.

During their time at Ohio Northern, students learn to think critically, creatively and entrepreneurially; communicate effectively; gain practical experience; solve problems collaboratively; and act as ethical and responsible members of a global community. As a result, our high-quality, student-centered experience stands out as one of the best investments in higher education.
Ohio Northern University is a school with a clear and certain purpose—student success. We inspire, support and drive students to go beyond what they believe they can accomplish. Ask graduates of Ohio Northern to point to a primary reason for their achievements, their success, and you’ll hear one answer: relationships.

Strong, genuine, caring, committed, lasting—these are the relationships at the heart of Ohio Northern University. Relationships that bring out the best in every student and fuel their success. Relationships that foster personal fulfillment, professional achievement and civic engagement. Relationships that are life-changing and transformative, connecting Polar Bears for generations beyond their time on campus.

Through the very nature of our relationship-based model of higher education, Ohio Northern University stands firm as a beacon of opportunity. One of the best private, comprehensive universities in the nation, Ohio Northern will continue to grow and evolve to meet society’s needs as we pursue our highest goal, student success.

This goal, student success, is what the Forward Together Campaign is all about.

And in the following pages, you will experience how, moving forward together in four key areas, we will reach it.
The vision for the future is clear

Throughout the years, from our founding until today, what was needed for student success has shifted with the times. As we move into the future, student success at ONU will depend heavily on four foundational elements—Student Scholarships, Teaching and Learning Excellence, Facilities for the Future and The Northern Fund. And it’s only through our ONU community coming together in generosity that we will reach it.

The Forward Together Campaign was born out of the commitment that Ohio Northern has to secure a bright future for current and future Polar Bears, and to uphold the pillars of unity and community that have kept ONU strong for more than 150 years. These aspirations will bring that vision into clear focus.

At its essence, this is what the Forward Together Campaign is all about. One goal, four campaign aspirations and an entire Polar Bear family moving forward together to ensure our tradition of student success continues long into the future.
The Northern Fund

$15 Million

The Northern Fund allows us to quickly respond to emerging opportunities and unexpected needs. Recent years have revealed the importance of being able to quickly meet new challenges, and the Northern Fund is critical to our ability to do just that.

Campaign Aspirations

We aspire to achieve a campaign goal of $100 million. We will strengthen Ohio Northern’s ability to recruit the students who thrive here, those with boundless potential waiting to be unleashed. We will attract outstanding faculty members who will help those students succeed. We will offer quality facilities to enhance learning and provide great extracurricular opportunities, including more options for student health and wellness.

Student Scholarships

$50 Million

To today’s students, financial aid is more important than ever. By increasing scholarship funding, we can increase the diversity of the student body, provide students with enriching travel opportunities, and attract high-achieving scholars from every financial circumstance.

Teaching and Learning Excellence

$30 Million

Investing in teaching and learning transforms the lives of students. Funds will enable us to recruit and retain brilliant faculty; expand academic programs and add new ones; celebrate and develop our faculty; and fortify our colleges, schools and centers – all of which directly benefit students.

Facilities for the Future

$5 Million

State-of-the-art academic, athletic and recreational facilities are the places where memories are formed and futures begin. With your support, we can provide and upgrade spaces for collaboration, competition, learning, performing arts and social activities, thereby helping us recruit top scholars, athletes and artists.

The Northern Fund

$15 Million

The Northern Fund allows us to quickly respond to emerging opportunities and unexpected needs. Recent years have revealed the importance of being able to quickly meet new challenges, and the Northern Fund is critical to our ability to do just that.
By partnering with generous donors like you, we aspire to reduce student loan debt so that more students can benefit from the unique value of an ONU education. A world of opportunity awaits.

Endowed scholarships make it possible to recruit students for whom the University is just the right fit, but who might not otherwise be able to pursue a high-caliber post-secondary education.

The Northern Now scholarship fund supports ONU’s highest priorities – student scholarships and financial aid – and it’s a great option for gifts of any size.

Study Abroad scholarships ensure that all students have the opportunity to broaden their horizons by studying in another country.

Honors Program scholarships enhance our ability to attract high-achieving scholars with extraordinary potential, such as future Fulbright and Goldwater scholars.

Scholarships for Underrepresented Students help the University to attract and recruit talented students from various and diverse backgrounds, strengthening our campus community and enriching ONU’s educational experience.
Effective professors, personalized attention, unique learning opportunities, and quality academic programs and resources are at the core of student success. Investing in teaching and learning at ONU will enable us to keep changing lives and inspiring brilliant minds.

Endowed chairs and professorships make it possible to recruit, retain and inspire top-caliber teaching talent. Through this campaign, you are invited to recognize and thank the faculty who inspired you by endowing chairs and professorships across all five colleges.

Endowed faculty fellows offer an incentive for younger faculty, by honoring early-career faculty members who show capacity for excellence in their scholarly work and innovation in their teaching.

Professional development funds give Ohio Northern faculty the chance to extend their research and scholarly activities through travel, professional networking, conferences and more, allowing them to bring cutting edge research and insights to the classroom.

Teaching awards will promote and reward great teaching, keeping faculty engaged and motivated to bring their “A” game to students every day.

Investment in the University’s schools and centers will fortify programs built on collaboration and focused on developing students into well-rounded professionals and community members. Funds can be directed to enhance facilities, supplies, positions, research, travel, training or any combination that will help students and faculty achieve higher levels of distinction.
State-of-the-art academic, athletic and recreational facilities are the places where students find each other and create memories. Your support will help provide and upgrade spaces for collaboration, competition, learning, performing arts and social activities. Not only will these changes improve our ability to recruit top scholars, athletes and artists, but they will also create a campus that fosters enthusiasm and a sense of belonging.

Students seek out an ONU experience because here they are able to engage in multi-faceted pursuits including music, theatre, athletics and recreation. On the academic side, nearly half of our students major in science, health and wellness-related disciplines that require constant updates to laboratories and modern equipment. Investment in the facilities that provide the foundation for these pursuits is an investment in the hallmark of an ONU education.
Preparing today to face tomorrow.

A robust Northern Fund is crucial to making sure ONU can nimbly address the challenges and opportunities of tomorrow. Gifts to the Northern Fund will enrich and sustain the student experience through annual support for academic programs, facility improvements and financial assistance. The Northern Fund also enables us to take advantage of emerging opportunities, such as establishing a new program in a growing field.
Dear friends,

Attending ONU changed our lives! We met during first year chemistry refresher and began our journey through life together. Although it’s been a number of years since we were students at Ohio Northern University, our affection for the place that served as the foundation of our professional and personal lives has only grown stronger as time goes on. ONU provided us with an outstanding education that positioned us to have wonderful, rewarding careers in pharmacy and business.

This outpouring of love and thanks to ONU is what led us to serve as ambassadors for the Forward Together Campaign.

Throughout our lives, our philanthropy has been inspired by making a difference. In this case, that difference is helping give students the same opportunities and experiences that Ohio Northern provided us. Additionally, we know that by helping ONU educate and prepare future leaders, we are also making a difference for our country and our world.

For more than 150 years, Ohio Northern has been delivering great leaders, and the impact of those leaders continues to grow every day. We hope you will join us in supporting this campaign as a way to give back and invest in ONU’s strong tradition of success.

Sincerely,

Hanley & Mary Wheeler

Hanley Wheeler, BSPh ’82, and Mary Murphy Wheeler, BSPh ’82
Campaign Chair
Now Is The Time

Your financial support of the Forward Together campaign will ensure that generations of future Polar Bears will benefit from the unique value of an Ohio Northern education.

You may choose to make a single gift, spread your contributions over a period of time or choose a deferred giving option.

Your gifts are deeply appreciated, and we will steward them with care.

Ways to Give

• Cash
• Appreciated securities
• Retirement plans
• Mutual funds
• Life income plans
• Life insurance policies
• Bequests
• Real estate
• Corporate matching gifts

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