
Office of the President

Augustana College annual report

Dear Friends:

In its mission statement, Augustana College declares itself to be “deeply rooted in the liberal arts and sciences and an inclusive expression of Lutheran higher education.” The college’s new strategic plan, *Augustana Bold & Boundless*, reaffirms this rootedness. Approved in January by its board of trustees, which includes Bishop Stacie Fidler, the plan has three core goals:

1. Engaged and holistic learning
2. Student success in life and career
3. Serving our neighbors through engagement with our community, region and world

Strategic plans are all well and good, but if I may borrow from Luther’s Small Catechism, *What does this mean for us?*

It means that the purpose of Augustana College is to afford an opportunity for a liberal arts education that speaks to all dimensions of human existence, in a manner consistent with the higher education values of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

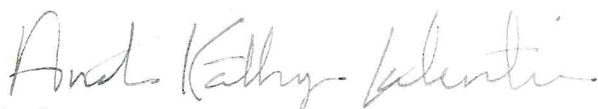
It means that as a community dedicated to diversity, equity and inclusion, Augustana prizes interfaith engagement, commitment to justice, spiritual exploration, reasoned examination, vocational discernment, and freedom of academic inquiry and expression

Since its founding, Augustana College has educated and graduated people of purpose, with deep passions, the skills to accomplish ambitious goals, and extraordinary gifts for leadership. Our graduates possess a way of thinking about, and looking at, the world that equips them with a panoramic view of their community and the world that motivates them to have impact wherever they are. This is what Augustana has done since 1860 and we aspire to continue to shape graduates who make their communities better because of their experience with us.

At a time when many private liberal arts colleges in the Midwest are facing declining enrollments, we are grateful that the steadfast support of alumni and friends of the college has allowed us to keep an Augustana education in reach of families. The Murry Gerber Challenge is a \$40 million match that doubles the impact of any gift to endowed financial aid resources. It’s the fuel behind *Augustana Possible*, the single largest financial aid initiative in the institution’s history.

Augustana College stakes its future on the need of society for people whose education is framed by purpose. People who are not daunted by hard decisions because they have a set of values, derived in the context of community, to help them navigate the unforeseen. This future is unreachable without effective partnerships like that with the Northern Illinois Synod and the ELCA, for which my colleagues and I are deeply grateful.

Sincerely,



Andrea Kathryn Talentino
President