



Annual Impact Report 2023-2024

TRADITION AND TRANSFORMATION



From the Board Chair

As the Chair of the Bellarmine Board of Trustees, it's my honor to present Bellarmine's Annual Impact Report, which showcases the progress being made toward the goals of the university's strategic plan, Tradition and Transformation.

It is clear that Bellarmine's mission of educating students in mind, body and spirit for meaningful lives of service resonates with our community. Fiscal year 2024 was the single best fundraising year in Bellarmine's history. This extraordinary financial support will allow us to keep Bellarmine affordable for more students, offer additional academic and extracurricular programming, and strengthen our mutually beneficial partnerships in the city and region.

In addition, careful management of resources allowed Bellarmine to reduce its budget deficit by 16.5 percent.

Of course there were challenges. Chief among them was one faced by colleges and universities nationwide: the U.S. Department of Education's delayed release of a revised FAFSA form to Dec. 31, 2023, from the usual Oct. 1 release date. The change significantly decreased the percentage of students who completed the FAFSA and delayed the release of comprehensive financial award packages from December

to April to those who did complete the form. These factors absolutely affected enrollment numbers for 2024-25.

The incoming Class of 2028 is a strong class, however, drawn to Bellarmine for its robust academic environment and its commitment to Catholic social teaching. I am proud to support a university that provides graduates not just with a good living, but also with a good life.

Swords up!



Donald J. Kelly
Partner at Wyatt, Tarrant & Combs

From the President

I am proud to share in this Annual Impact Report the many successes in the past academic year of Bellarmine's administrators, faculty and staff on behalf of our students.

I am particularly proud of our continued success in two important tenets of our mission: making a high-quality, transformative Bellarmine education accessible to all qualified students, and encouraging our students and faculty to participate in the life of our community and thereby improve the human condition.

As you will see in this report, intentional work by our teams in Enrollment Management, Admissions, Financial Aid and Development is bolstering our recruitment of a much more diverse student body, while our teams in Academic and Student Affairs are providing our students with innovative educational experiences and wraparound support services.

That's part of the Bellarmine IMPACT, which you can read about below. The other part of IMPACT is the difference that our students make in the world, beginning while they are still on campus.

Befitting our Catholic social justice mission, we have a responsibility to build an intentional, visible and symbiotic relationship with the City of Louisville. Our Center for Community Engagement (CCE) has created thriving partnerships with the city's businesses, corporations and

non-profits through academic courses, extracurricular programs and university research.

These partnerships provide fantastic learning opportunities for our students, who in turn enrich our partners with their talent, ideas and energy.

I was thrilled in January 2024 to learn that this important work had received national recognition when Bellarmine achieved the Carnegie Elective Classification for Community Engagement, becoming one of only 368 universities in the nation to receive this distinction.

I congratulate the Bellarmine community on its commitment to service and engagement and to providing these life-changing experiences to as many deserving students as possible.

Go, Knights!

Susan M. Donovan
Susan M. Donovan, Ph.D.



BELLARMINE IMPACT

Bellarmine IMPACT describes what is most relevant, authentic and distinctive about a Bellarmine education—how we are different and why that difference makes us such an appealing choice for prospective students and their families.

We guarantee a four-year, student-centered educational experience that provides:

Engagement

A highly personalized pathway and intentional success plan for every student begins with application for admission and carries through career attainment or post-graduate study, with highly engaged learning, one-on-one attention from excellent faculty and wraparound student support.



Belonging

We encourage students to discover their true selves and the network they need to support their goals. We provide a vibrant campus life and an inclusive and welcoming community for all students.

Wellness

We are committed to educating students in mind, body and spirit. Coordinated health and wellness services support, facilitate and educate the Bellarmine community about lifelong health and wellness.



Purpose

Galvanized in the classroom by questions of meaning and purpose and supported by mentors, hands-on experiential learning and the Career Center, students focus on their individual callings, as well as the lifelong value of an undergraduate liberal arts education.

IMPACT



For each of these areas, students are supported by faculty and professional advisors and career and peer coaches. Collectively, these are known as the IMPACT Network.

Learn more at bellarmine.edu/impact/

Transformative Student Experience

Bellarmine will develop highly personalized pathways and intentional success plans for every student. These begin with application for admission and carry through career attainment or post-graduate study and include the value of campus life and clear communication of what a Bellarmine education will deliver to students in the 21st century.



Bachelor's Degree Recipient Outcomes Class of 2023

99%

working or continuing education within six months of graduation

97%

pursuing full-time opportunities in their career field of interest

88%

participating in 90+ hours of experiential education

71%

remained in Louisville MSA after graduation

100%

of student-athletes had career success within six months of graduation



"Bellarmine is a place where students are valued, not just as numbers but as essential members of a tight-knit community. The support and resources Bellarmine provided were pivotal in helping me achieve my goal of being the first in my family to graduate with a bachelor's degree."

-Tori Nugent '24

Environmental Justice and Sustainability major, Public Health minor



Average Mass attendance at Our Lady of the Woods Chapel was up 19% over the prior year.

The number of internships increased 33%, from 325 in 2022-23 to 433 in 2023-24.

Community engagement hours increased 18%, from 19,787 in 2022-23 to 23,353 in 2023-24.

Residence Life Occupancy

Residence hall occupancy has fully rebounded from the COVID-19 pandemic, matching levels not seen since 2016.

RESIDENTIAL STUDENTS	AUGUST 2021	AUGUST 2022	AUGUST 2023	AUGUST 2024
First-Year	404	391	454	427
Second Year*	219	292	264	254
Juniors	116	152	179	169
Seniors	111	118	142	131
Grad./Postbac.	26	29	12	11
Exchange	1	12	5	5
Transfer	33	25	9	34
TOTAL	910	1,019	1,065	1,031

*INCLUDES RETURNING FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS AND SOPHOMORES

Retention Rate vs. 17-Year Average

While Bellarmine saw a slight decrease in retention among new students who entered college during the pandemic, retention of returning students was up, in some cases representing the highest numbers in more than 30 years.

CLASS	RETENTION RATE	VS. 2007 AVERAGE (17 YRS.)
Sophomores (Fall 2023 Cohort)	79.2%	79.2%
Juniors (Fall 2022 Cohort)	67.6%	70.7%
Seniors (Fall 2021 Cohort)	68.5%	67.5%
4-year Graduate Rate (Fall 2020 Cohort)	55.7%	59.2%
Transfer (Summer/Fall 2023 Cohort)	79.1%	73.0%

Enrollment for Fall 2024

2,885

Total enrollment for Fall 2024, including 2,242 undergraduate and 643 graduate students

539

Number of students in first-year class, the most diverse in Bellarmine's history (see Priority 3 for details)

Student Experience

94.9%

of first-year students participated in three or more activities

855

degrees awarded in May 2024 (585 undergraduate and 270 graduate or doctoral)

35

military affiliated students received a degree, including 26 veterans

Student Support

TOP 10%

Bellarmine's ranking in Supportive Campus Environments based on National Survey of Student Engagement results

4,284

Academic Advising appointments in 2023-24 academic year (increase of 11.8%)

Model for Academic Innovation

Bellarmino will diversify its educational delivery to become a model for academic innovation and purposeful risk-taking, including the development of new and nimble ways of delivering academic course content and the strengthening of continuing education.



NOTABLE GRANTS RECEIVED TO ENHANCE ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

\$147K

Biology Department
Education Development Center (Amgen)

\$64.2K

School of Nursing
Health Resources & Services Administration

\$150K

Bridge to BU Program
C.E. & S. Foundation

\$5.5K

Political Science
Jack Miller Foundation

\$15K

Community Engagement
CIC NetVUE

\$12K

Biology Department
GE Appliances, a Haier Company

\$15K

Bridge to BU Program
CPE



Collaborative Innovation

- The Faculty Development Center shifted its operation from individual faculty classroom observation and instructional feedback to a model that utilizes peer coaches from across the schools/colleges. A new multi-technology learning center, "The Forge," serves as a central resource that offers a variety of programs and activities that foster student success by supporting faculty in teaching, scholarship, service, technology and instructional design.
- The Center for Continuing and Professional Education (CPPE) worked with outside partner Green Flower Cannabis Education to offer the community online, certificate-bearing education programs around the emerging Cannabis/Medical Marijuana industry. The program offers five individual modules, each of which has an individual certification.
- Following a year of intense collaboration, planning and problem-solving, Academic Affairs and the faculty-lead Core Education Implementation Team formulated a new general education core curriculum that will be implemented in Fall 2024.

Academic Schools

Bellarmino College of Arts & Sciences

- Implemented multiple curricular changes in
 - » Data science
 - » Computer Science
 - » Natural Science core courses
 - » Psychology
 - » Environmental Studies
 - » Minors in Theatre and Philosophy
- Made two strategic faculty hires for Psychology, Computer Science
- Implemented workgroup on micro-credentials aligned with new general education curriculum

W. Fielding Rubel School of Business

- Updated EMBA curriculum
- Updated MBA curriculum
- Hit target enrollment in Marketing major

Annsey Frazier Thornton School of Education

- Implemented Teacher Residency Program with JCPS
- Hosted Education Rising program with JCPS high school students
- Created MAT recruitment and advising plan with AIKCU partners

College of Health Professions, Lansing School, and School of Movement and Rehabilitation Sciences

- DPT implemented first Movement Disorders Fellowship in country in collaboration with Norton Healthcare
- Nursing expanded partnership with Norton Healthcare with Designated Education Unit creation
- Extensive DPT curricular revision approved for implementation with May 2025 cohort
- Respiratory Therapy and Exercise Science programs moved from Flynn Building to main campus
- Community partnerships with HOSA, JCPS Healthcare Academies, AIKCU schools were expanded
- DPT expanded partnership with Thrive Center

NEW PROGRAMS AND DELIVERY METHODS

- DNP-Nurse Anesthetist Program admitted first students in Fall 2023
- MSN and certificate in Adult Gerontology/Acute Care admitted first students Spring 2024

National University Rankings per U.S. News & World Report

280

Overall Ranking

318

in Top Performers for Social Mobility

Niche.Com Catholic College Ranking

#80

for Best Catholic College in America (out of 160)

#324

for Best Colleges in America (out of 968)

#209

for Best Colleges of Kinesiology & Physical Therapy in America (out of 591)

#470

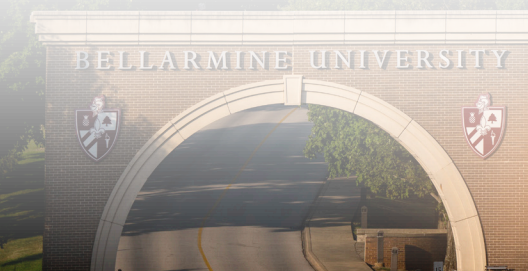
for Best Value Colleges in America (out of 1,482)



"I wanted to be a part of something bigger than me, and I was able to find that at Bellarmine. Each of my classes felt like they were prepping me for a different aspect of my career field. I was able to build my network, put together a business plan and work for a nonprofit company."

—Sam Bowles '24

Business Administration major



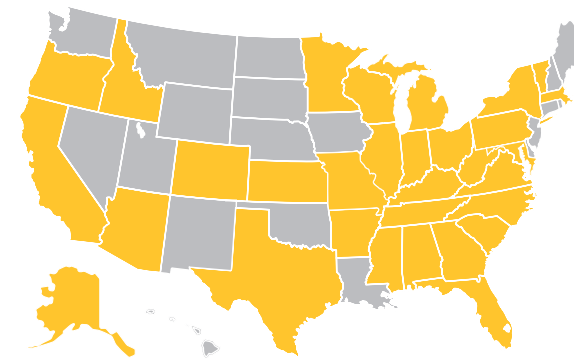
Diversify Enrollment & Geographic Reach

Bellarmino will expand its geographic reach to enhance reputation and impact through enrollment pipelines, athletics, alumni engagement, and outreach.



THREE-YEAR TRENDS FOR FIRST-TIME FULL-TIME STUDENTS	% PELL ELIGIBLE	% FIRST GEN	% STUDENTS OF COLOR
2021	29%	38%	25%
2022	33%	36%	27%
2023	46%	44%	33%
2024	46%	43%	34%

FIRST-YEAR STUDENT PROFILE	2021	2022	2023	2024
Male/Female	34/66	42/58	37/63	39/61
From Kentucky	71%	66%	72%	72%
Average ACT/SAT Composite	24.2	26/1211	25/1178	26/1204
Median High School GPA	3.72	3.72	3.67	3.50
Honors Program	15%	15%	25%	15%
Percentage of NCAA Student-Athletes	20%	22%	25%	22%
Legacy Students (Sibling, child or grandchild of alumni)	14%	20%	9%	7%



FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS
 First-year students come from 31 states and 9 countries (including the U.S.)

Top Religious Affiliations:

- Catholic
- Christian
- Non-Denominational
- Baptist
- No Preference

Top 5 Majors:

- Nursing
- Business Administration
- Exercise Science
- Biology
- Psychology

TRANSFER STUDENTS

83 transfers for Fall 24 compared to 85 in 2023

Top five majors:

- Business Administration
- Nursing
- Finance
- Sports Administration
- Communication/ Computer Science (tied)

Top three previous institutions attended:

- Jefferson Community & Technical College
- University of Louisville
- Ivy Tech Community College

NEW GRADUATE AND SECOND-DEGREE STUDENTS

157

Summer 2024

214

Summer 2023

152

Fall 2024

159

Fall 2023



Expanding Awareness

Alumni Connecting with Students

1,600

students contacted by Alumni Write a Knight campaign (162 Alumni Volunteers)

496

students impacted by Alumni Mentors

4,474

Alumni Event Engagements

Student-Athlete Success

100%

Student-athlete graduates with career success within six months of graduation (50% working, 50% continuing their education)

81%

completed at least one internship for credit

#3

Rank in ASUN Conference for Academic Performance - 4th year to be in Top three



“I like our ability to apply what we learn in class into the real world and into the systems that run them. What I studied definitely provided me with the tools to understand the world for what it is, and how best to create change in it.”

—Hannah Mitchell '24, Belleville, IL

Criminal Justice Studies major, triple minor in French, Sociology, and African and African American Diaspora Studies

Commitment to Equity & Inclusion

Bellarmine will demonstrate a fully realized and lived commitment to equity and inclusion, empowering all members of its increasingly diverse community and supporting them to achieve their full potential.



A LONG TRADITION

Over the past eight years, the percentage of students of color at Bellarmine University has steadily grown. This year's first-year class, with 34% of the 539 students identifying as students of color, represents the largest percentage in Bellarmine's history.

The increase reflects a commitment to diversity that has existed at Bellarmine since the beginning. Three black students were among the 112 who entered the brand-new Bellarmine College in 1950, when Louisville was still a fully segregated city. Msgr. Alfred F. Horrigan, Bellarmine's first president, wrote:



"When the right to intellectual and spiritual development which is the proper concern of higher education is curtailed by the physical accident of race, there is implicit... a materialistic philosophy of life which is intolerable in a Christian and democratic society."

49%

Increase in students of Latino/Hispanic ethnicity

38%

Percentage of HOPE Kentucky Scholars in incoming first-year class

17%

Increase in number of Identity and Inclusion events from 2022-23

11%

Increase in use of Knights Pantry and Knights Closet in the past year



"I was initially one of the only Muslim Indian students on campus. After co-creating the Muslim Student Association (MSA), I've seen a surge in the number of Muslims on campus. I am proud and humbled to have been able to cultivate a space here on campus for Muslims."

—Esha Khan '24

Neuroscience major, Psychology and Biology minors

RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION PARTNERSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

- Retention Project Management launch and retreat with more than 65 faculty/staff contributing to the development of a plan on equity in student retention through the Gardner Institute. Implementation will begin Fall 2024.
- Doubled the number of student participants in the Bridging the Gap Program and expanded the program to include students from the University of Louisville and Spalding University in addition to University of the Cumberlands.
- Launched Big Brothers Big Sisters of Kentuckiana School to Work Program at Bellarmine University in partnership with Shawnee High School.



PROGRAMMING & ENGAGEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

- Created position of VP for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion in the Student Government Association.
- Expanded affinity groups on campus to include faith-based and caretaker groups.
- Offered professional development/outreach opportunities including:
 - » Four-part Faculty Development Series, with more than 40 participants.
 - » Study Abroad trip to Northern Ireland: Expanded accessibility of study abroad to diverse student populations.
 - » A Sista's Voice discussion group, which connects Bellarmine faculty, staff and students with women in the community for the purpose of fostering a sense of belonging/building community and ongoing identity development.
 - » Post Affirmative Action Discussion Series, a three-part series held on campus.

Meaningful Engagement & Partnerships

Bellarmine will be an engaged partner to expand learning opportunities, enhance career networks and economic growth, and advance equity and quality of life for its neighboring communities.



“Experiences like MLK Week and Alternative Spring Break have introduced me to partners in West Louisville doing the empowering work that I was already passionate about. I’ve realized how closely intertwined community engagement is both with social justice and for our careers after Bellarmine. My experience has made me a better student, advocate and overall human being.”

—Mikayla Pitmon '24

Biology major

CARNEGIE CLASSIFICATION FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Bellarmine University received national recognition for its work to build collaborative partnerships throughout Louisville and the surrounding region by achieving the Carnegie Elective Classification for Community Engagement in January 2024.

Bellarmine is one of only 368 universities in the nation to receive this distinction, and only the second private university in Kentucky to do so, along with Berea College. Participating institutions must show that they provide robust support for high-quality community engagement experiences that connect with classroom learning and deliver measurable outcomes for both students and the community.

Bellarmine’s Center for Community Engagement, created in 2020, works to leverage university expertise and resources to meet community needs while helping students connect with meaningful, purpose-driven work and experiential learning opportunities.

NEW STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

Direct Admit Partnerships

The most notable and exciting endeavor in 2023-24 was the development of Direct Admit Partnerships with Jefferson County public and Catholic high schools.

“Bellarmine Direct” allows Louisville students from public and private high schools who have earned at least a 2.75 grade-point average to use a streamlined admission process through an online form that takes less than five minutes to complete. Once Bellarmine receives a Bellarmine Direct applicant’s high school transcript, that student is automatically admitted with a minimum scholarship of \$18,000. Catholic high school graduates earning at least a 3.0 GPA receive an additional scholarship at Bellarmine. There is no cost to apply.

The following schools partner with Bellarmine in this program:

- Jefferson County Public Schools
- Archdiocese of Louisville (broadly)
- St. Xavier High School
- Trinity High School
- Sacred Heart Academy
- Assumption High School
- Mercy Academy
- DeSales High School
- Holy Cross High School
- Presentation Academy

Foundation and Government Grants

Bellarmine secured \$669,208 in new grant commitments in 2023-24.



Enhancing Access & Affordability

Bellarmino will be a responsible and effective steward of its resources, making a Bellarmine education accessible to students of all backgrounds and ensuring financial stability for decades to come.



KEY GIFTS FROM 2023-24

- \$4M Lansing Estate, multiple university areas
- \$1.9M, anonymous donor, estate commitment for an endowed scholarship
- \$1.5M, anonymous donor, endowed scholarship for students from Nelson County
- \$1.725M, Dr. Mushtaque Juneja '00 MBA, Juneja Nurse Anesthetist Program
- \$500K Reynolds Foundation, military affiliated students
- \$100K, Ray Strothman '67, Rubel School of Business and Bloomberg Terminal
- \$100K, Summer Bridge Program



“Growing up in a single-parent household, I knew money was tight. I was afraid that Bellarmine wouldn’t be a possibility. But with the help of scholarships, I was able to attend! I was in the Honors Program, I was an orientation leader, and I was voted Student Government Association president. Bellarmine has helped me to discover the best in myself.”

—Madyson Lira '24

Honors Communication major, Marketing & Anthropology minors

PHILANTHROPY

Fiscal Year 2024 was a record fundraising year for Bellarmine, with the university securing over \$18M. This was the first full year that the development team operationalized a relationship-based fundraising model, empowering academic and athletics leaders to build more direct philanthropic relationships and secure gifts in a coordinated manner. As a result, Bellarmine closed a record number of major gifts.

Of particular note:

- The generous gift of \$1.725M from Dr. Mushtaque Juneja and his family for Bellarmine’s Juneja Nurse Anesthetist Program will be transformational, as it supports a high-impact inaugural program at the university. This gift will provide premier facilities, state-of-the-art equipment, and faculty and student support for the Doctor of Nursing Practice-Nurse Anesthesia Program.
- A gift of \$4M from the estate of Dr. Allan and Donna Lansing to Bellarmine University brought the family’s lifetime giving total to more than \$10 million, making the Lansings the largest individual donors in the university’s history. The estate gift is earmarked for nursing and allied health; the men’s basketball and baseball programs; the Clinical Recitation Initiative for Student Enrichment (RISE) program; and the Bellarmine Fund, which supports all students and overall academic excellence. Dr. Lansing, an internationally renowned heart surgeon, was a longtime Bellarmine trustee, and the university’s Donna and Allan Lansing School of Nursing and Clinical Sciences is named for the couple in honor of their support of the Nursing Program.

Philanthropy Total (Gifts, New Pledges, Planned Gifts)

\$18M

Total FY24 Realized Support from Donors

\$11.2M

Total Athletic Gifts and Sponsorship

\$2.9M

Bellarmino Fund (Annual Fund)

\$1.7M

Institutional Aid

\$65M+

Bellarmino’s total investment in institutional student aid

\$19M+

Bellarmino’s investment in institutional aid for new first-year students



