

HERE FOR EVERY VOICE

A \$200 Million Vision



There is nothing more powerful than ambition activated.

Smith students are doers, makers, thinkers and innovators. They are the first to raise their hands and offer a solution to a problem. Not content to simply accept the status quo, they step forward, raise their voices and take action to create the world they want.

We understand that everyone has something unique to offer the world, and nothing—particularly the cost of college—should get in the way of that ambition.

Smith believes that education empowers. Education instills confidence and gives voice to students from all backgrounds. As a leader in higher education, Smith is committed to dismantling the financial barriers that can deter even the most promising students from applying to college; students should not have to fear that their economic circumstances will prevent them from being accepted in spite of their academic qualifications.

At Smith, access is the foundation for excellence. And we have a plan, an ambitious vision for ensuring that the most talented students from diverse backgrounds have access to the highest quality education.

\$200 million in endowed scholarship funds.

Reaching this goal will give us the resources to

- Eliminate financial considerations in our admission decisions, allowing us to create the strongest, most diverse class possible every year
- Take a big step toward equalizing the student experience
- Open doors to opportunity—through internships and access to mentors and professional networks—that might otherwise be out of reach for students from under-resourced backgrounds
- Prepare students to become the leaders they are meant to be

Together, through this critical initiative, we can activate the ambition inside every student.

The time to be bold is now because the need has never been greater.

For so many students, the dream of a college degree can seem far out of reach because of the price tag. Residential education is an expensive endeavor, and for years rising costs have outpaced increases in family earnings to the point where 95 percent of colleges are too expensive for middle- and low-income students.

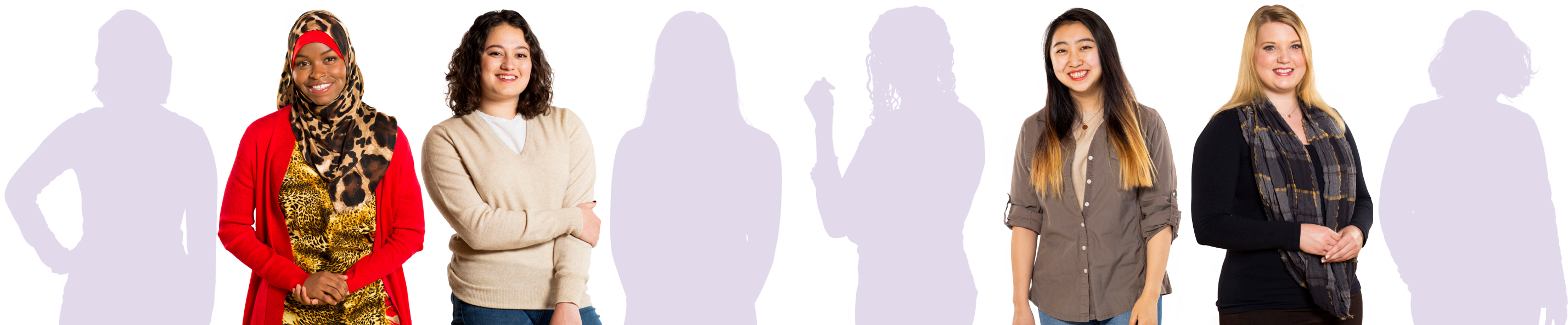
The significant financial commitment Smith is willing to make to eliminate financial barriers to education is a critical form of justice and equity that we believe will help close society's growing economic gap, lift communities and create new opportunities for generations of students and their families.

Meeting our \$200 million goal will require a community-wide effort, and we are asking for your partnership in securing a better future for Smith students and for our world. With

your help, we will elevate the very core of who we are as an institution founded to address inequities in education. Your generosity will allow us to expand our capacity to provide full support to the most talented students regardless of their financial circumstances.

This is the right thing to do. **The simple decision to come to Smith can transform a student's life in profound ways. No qualified student should be denied the opportunity to fulfill their academic ambitions.**

Together, let's ensure that every woman who comes to study at Smith finds her voice, discovers her passion and learns to lead.



Our vision encompasses three core beliefs.

1. ACCESS IS THE FOUNDATION FOR EXCELLENCE

Every year, Smith risks losing extraordinary students to other institutions that can offer better financial aid packages to applicants. With \$200 million in endowed scholarship funds, Smith will be able to eliminate that risk and admit the best applicants to create the strongest, most diverse student body possible—one that will make the Smith experience better for everyone.

Your investment in our financial aid vision is an investment in excellence.

2. FINANCIAL BARRIERS SHOULD NEVER LIMIT AMBITION

At Smith, we understand that supporting students means more than just covering the costs of tuition, room and board. We are deeply committed to taking care of students, ensuring that they have the means to take full advantage of everything Smith has to offer, from internships to study-away opportunities to academic conferences. College is not just about what takes place in the classroom, and when students can participate in the full Smith experience, ambition is activated, doors to opportunity open wide, and students gain the confidence to pursue their passions, bring their big ideas to life and change the world in beautifully disruptive ways.

Your investment will help create a more equitable academic experience that eliminates barriers and empowers every individual to pursue their dreams and advance their ambitions.

"So much good comes to the world when young women are given the opportunities financial aid provides. My life is everything I dreamed it could be thanks to Smith's generosity and belief in me."

—A member of the class of 1977

"Attending Smith College was the single most important decision I made in regards to my education. It radically transformed my life by surrounding me with professors and fellow students who truly believed in my potential. I will be forever grateful to Smith and the generous aid I received."

—A member of the class of 1996

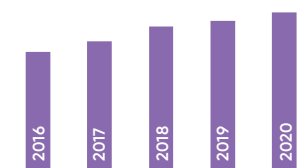
3. CHANGING THE WORLD BEGINS AT SMITH

Making a difference is what Smith students and graduates do best. Smithies become leaders right here on campus, where their ambitions are supported and their ideas are embraced. By ensuring access to the full Smith experience, we are building on the legacy of our founder, Sophia Smith, who envisioned that graduates of her namesake college would use their education to do "the most good to the greatest number."

Your investment will help prepare the next generation of changemakers who will build on the legacy of those Smithies who came before them.

Meeting students' full need, beyond tuition and fees, is a cornerstone of our vision. Right now we strive to relieve unnecessary financial stress on students in various ways. Raising significant additional endowed funds for financial aid will allow us to do even more. Here are some of the ways Smith supports low-income and first-generation students once they are on campus.

- Textbook assistance
- Emergency medical and dental expenses, including eyeglasses
- Access to technology and digital tools
- Travel to conferences
- Emergency travel home
- Participation in co-curricular events
- Graduate school application fees
- Interview travel and clothing
- Fine art supplies
- Emergency Fund for Students of Color
- Meals during Thanksgiving and spring breaks



From 2016 to 2020, the total institutional aid awarded annually to Smith students grew from \$57M to \$76M, an increase of 33%

[Common Data Sets 2016–2020]

A college education remains the best investment students can make in their future. According to the U.S. Department of Education

- College graduates earn, on average, 66% more than their peers who have only a high school diploma
- An estimated two-thirds of the best jobs require a college degree
- College graduates can expect to earn at least \$1 million more over their lifetimes than workers without a college-level degree



A 'transformative' gift

"Smith had a meaningful impact on my life... and I feel an obligation to pay it back."

In October 2020, an alumna who wishes to remain anonymous made a transformational \$50 million gift toward our \$200 million vision. She designated \$40 million toward financial aid, with the remaining \$10 million going to bolster the college's career services program. In making the gift, the alumna said, "Smith had a meaningful impact on my life, both personally and professionally, and I feel an obligation to pay it back."

President Kathleen McCartney said that the gift is an affirmation of Smith's commitment to providing access and equalizing the college experience for all students. "Too often, economic inequality leads to educational inequality," she said. "I want to ensure access to Smith for every ambitious prospective student from every walk of life."



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Kathleen McCartney

President

"I was only able to attend Smith due to the financial aid I received. Without that resource, I would have missed out on the incredible educational and empowering experience Smith had to offer. For me, my college years were very influential to the woman I became, and it was my Smith experience that gave me the confidence to be proud and fearless, which in turn has led me to lead a very rich and fulfilling life. I am grateful to have been able to attend Smith, and so proud to be a Smithie."

—A member of the class of 1990

"The financial aid I received as a first-generation college student to attend Smith College changed the trajectory of my life forever."

—A member of the class of 1987

For more information and to give a gift, please contact: Betsy Carpenter '93 Associate Vice President for Development ewcarpen@smith.edu 413-585-2052



HERE FOR EVERY VOICE

Smith's Commitment
to Scholarships

