

# BUCKNELL

WINTER 2025



*Special Edition*  
**UNIVERSITY REPORT**



# Dear Bucknellians,

In an increasingly complex higher education landscape, Bucknell continues to distinguish itself as a leader by anticipating challenges and seizing opportunities. I'm pleased to share with you our 2024 University Report — a special edition of *Bucknell Magazine* that celebrates our recent accomplishments and looks forward to the year ahead.

Much of our success is rooted in our unwavering commitment to educating the whole student. By remaining true to our mission and focusing on the strategic priorities set forth in *The Plan for Bucknell 2025*, we have been able to expand upon our exceptional academic program and enhance student life as never before.

In these pages, you'll read about new academic centers that create exciting opportunities for collaboration at the crossroads of our three colleges, increased access and support for students with financial need, new health and wellness initiatives, advances in sustainability and community engagement, strides in making Bucknell equitable, inclusive and welcoming for all — and much more.

Our campus brims with creativity, discovery and achievement, and I hope you're as proud as I am to be part of this extraordinary community.

Sincerely,



**John C. Bravman, President**





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# Championing Access

Providing more students with the opportunity to experience a Bucknell education goes beyond offering financial aid. Bucknell is committed to opening doors for talented students from all backgrounds and creating an inclusive learning environment. By fostering a strong sense of belonging — in the classroom, with their peers and across campus — access efforts ensure Bucknellians can deeply engage in their academic pursuits and thrive in community life.

## Success Starts with Support

**I**n its first year, Bucknell's Center for Access & Success has built a supportive community for students in the University's five national and signature pathway scholarship programs.

Chris Brown, the Andrew Hartman '71 & Joseph Fama '71 Executive Director of the Center for Access & Success (far right), guides the center's growth through initiatives aligned with *The Plan for Bucknell 2025*. He focuses on building bridges as much as developing new programming, connecting students with Bucknell's extracurricular offerings and creating mission-focused initiatives to fill support gaps when necessary.

Partnerships with the Center for Career Advancement, Office of Global & Off-campus Education and others amplify the cross-campus commitment to holistic student support. From those collaborations, Brown's team has developed new access initiatives to help students confidently pursue study abroad programming, as well as internship and networking opportunities and a grant program to provide funding for students who choose to participate. (*Learn more about these programs on P. 5.*)

In addition to helping students make practical connections, the center creates a sense of belonging. The Axis Lounge, nestled at the heart of the Center for Access & Success in Taylor Hall, is a cozy, comfortable space where students can gather. Through partnerships with the Posse Foundation, Bucknell's GenFirst! program and the First Scholars Network, the center also provides mentorship, academic guidance and leadership development.

"Each student needs different resources to help engage fully in campus life," Brown says. "We're creating a broad network of touchpoints to help students thrive — from enrollment through graduation and beyond."







## 'A PLACE TO CALL HOME'

As a high school student in the Philadelphia suburbs, **Kaylin Reynolds '27** didn't think Bucknell was going to be a good fit. But the strength of the University's English — creative writing program appealed to the Ardmore, Pa., native, and she applied despite her reservations. After receiving both need-based and merit scholarships, she signed her acceptance and prepared to transition to life in a small college town.

While home for break after her first semester, she was surprised to find herself missing Lewisburg. "I came back to campus with a refreshed mindset," she says. "When I started participating in programs offered in the Center for Access & Success that spring, I finally realized Bucknell's potential for me."

“

"The programs the center offers helped me find a sense of home."

*Kaylin Reynolds '27*

By summer 2024, Reynolds was interning with the center, creating initiatives based on her own first-year experience. With Brown's guidance, she created a strategic communications plan for incoming Gateway Scholars. "I wanted them to feel connected before arriving," Reynolds says. The email campaign she developed provides insights into the college transition and helpful tips from an experienced perspective.

Now, as a junior fellow with the center, Reynolds wants to help other Bucknellians find belonging. "I love being be part of the work that is helping other students find a place to call home," she says.



In the Center for Access & Success, Executive Director Chris Brown is spearheading the development of programs that provide students with experiential learning, career preparation and personalized advising to enhance their Bucknell experience.

## Access Granted

Experiential learning is an essential component of the Bucknell academic journey. By participating in research projects, internships, study abroad programs and summer courses, students develop practical skills and cultivate a deeper understanding of the world. Thanks to the generosity of **Glen Tullman '81**, students associated with the Center for Access & Success can fully immerse themselves in these transformative experiences by applying for a Candland Educational Impact Grant, named for the late Professor Douglas K. Candland, psychology and animal behavior.

The grants provide essential funding to students, removing financial barriers and enabling them to take advantage of opportunities that foster personal, academic and professional growth. More than 20 students have received Candland grants to cover travel, living and enrollment costs.

**Jerimaha McClain '26**, a management & organizations major from Bowie, Md., was among the first Candland grant recipients. The award supported his summer 2024 internship at Krispy Kreme in Charlotte, N.C., providing funding to help cover his living expenses. McClain first visited the company's headquarters as a first-year student with the Taste, Tech & Teamwork Pre-Orientation program. While there, he met chief brand officer **Dave Skena '92**. Two years later, that networking moment turned into an internship opportunity. McClain put his education to work as a global operations intern, gaining firsthand insight into the complexities of a corporation that operates in more than 40 countries.

"This grant program was put in place to ensure that all students in the Center for Access & Success can participate in programming that enhances their education," says Executive Director Chris Brown. "We want students to take full advantage of this generous funding, and we can't wait to see the impact of their experiences."



*The Access to Global Education program puts valuable study abroad experiences — like this one in Milan — within reach for more Bucknellians.*





## BUILDING PATHWAYS

The Center for Access & Success has developed specialized programs to support study abroad experiences, enhance career development and provide personalized mentoring. Launched in fall 2024, these initiatives help students fully explore and benefit from the wide range of opportunities available to them at Bucknell.

» **Access to Global Education** is a program designed to ignite interest in international travel and enable students to integrate studying abroad into their Bucknell experience. Students are coached on cultural humility and securing financial aid in addition to necessities like obtaining a passport and planning travel. The program culminates in a spring break trip abroad, and ongoing support is available to help students plan future study abroad opportunities.

» **Access to Career Advancement** is designed to boost professional readiness by offering a range of resources to help students explore career interests, build essential skills, and prepare for internships and job applications. In partnership with the Center for Career Advancement, this program equips students with tools for success through resume and cover letter labs, career workshops, and opportunities to attend career fairs, alumni panels and field trips. Participants also receive a professional headshot, personalized networking cards and a stipend to build a professional wardrobe.

» **Access Advocates** provide each new student affiliated with the center personalized support from a dedicated mentor. Inspired by the successful Posse Foundation mentor model, the program pairs committed faculty and staff members with students to help them navigate their academic and personal journeys at Bucknell. Through regular one-on-one meetings and group activities, Access Advocates guide students in exploring new opportunities, addressing challenges, connecting with valuable campus resources and building a meaningful community.

## BUCKNELL JOINS NATIONAL FIRSTGEN NETWORK

Bucknell has joined the **FirstGen Forward Network**, a national initiative supporting first-generation college students. This membership will help Bucknell strengthen mentorship programs, connect students to resources and support their transition to college life.



# Attracting the Best and Brightest

Bucknell continues to draw the most talented and ambitious students from a wide range of backgrounds, resulting in a more selective admissions process each year. This increased selectivity ensures that we enroll individuals who aren't only academically exceptional but who are also poised to become the next generation of leaders. By bringing together a diverse and gifted student body, Bucknell cultivates a learning environment that fosters collaboration and success, helping students reach their full potential on campus and beyond.



## Resilience in Action

**I**n a year marked by unprecedented challenges in college admissions, particularly following the Supreme Court's 2023 decision on affirmative action, Bucknell has shown strategic agility and commitment to its core values. The ruling struck down race-conscious admissions policies, requiring institutions to adjust their approaches to creating diverse student bodies. Bucknell, well prepared to pivot effectively, celebrated its 179th academic year with a record total enrollment for the fourth consecutive year, welcoming 3,950 students, including 994 first-year students. This new class stands out for its academic strength (with an average high school GPA of 3.62) and also for its diversity, with 23.5% students of color and representation from 37 states, Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico and 54 countries.

**Kevin Mathes '07**, associate vice president & dean of admissions, emphasizes the significance of this achievement, noting that the Class of 2028 is a testament to Bucknell's dedication to attracting bright minds and offering

opportunities to students from all walks of life. "Bucknell has succeeded in bringing together a talented and diverse student body, united by their academic achievements and commitment to making a positive impact," Mathes says.

Three key initiatives drove this success. First, Bucknell significantly increased its outreach efforts, connecting with a broader range of prospective students. Second, the University deepened its partnerships with organizations supporting historically underrepresented students. Finally, Bucknell launched new pathway scholarship programs in collaboration with the Center for Access & Success.

Adding to this momentum, Bucknell reimaged its merit scholarship program this fall. The scholarships, designed in collaboration with the deans of Bucknell's three colleges, will offer opportunities that reflect the individual strengths of each college and will be the largest at the University, awarding \$40,000 per year.





## RESTORING CIVILITY

It's a time of polarization nationally, when communication between opposing viewpoints can feel strained — if not impossible. At Bucknell, students recognize the need for change and want to play a proactive part in bridging divides. To support their needs, Bucknell's Division of Equity & Inclusive Excellence introduced Dignity & Dialogue Circles this fall. This initiative, which emphasizes building connections and listening with the intent to understand others, helps students communicate across differences.

Each circle accommodates up to 25 participants and employs a method rooted in Indigenous restorative practices. The approach encourages empathetic listening and respectful engagement, says **Jocelyne Scott '11**, senior director of equity and strategic initiatives. Five sessions were held during the fall semester, discussing topics including political division and maintaining civility post-election. Additional sessions will be held in the spring. The goal is for students to carry these skills into their personal and professional lives, contributing to a more understanding society.

## BUCKNELL SCHOLARS SHINE

Learning begins in the classroom, but it doesn't stop there. As recipients of some of the country's most prestigious scholarships and fellowships, Bucknell students routinely leverage their passions and academic pursuits into opportunities to pursue graduate education, research projects and diplomatic careers around the world. In 2024, Bucknell students received the following awards:

- » NSF Graduate Research Fellowships: **Ally Clarke '24**, **Georgia Corbett '24**, **Marianne Voigt '24**
- » Goldwater Scholarships: **Alejandro Vargas-Altamirano '25**, **Marion Duval '25**, **Grace Ginder '25**
- » Fulbright Scholarship: **Bret Hatzinger '24**
- » Beinecke Scholarship: **Gwen Radecki '25**
- » Thomas R. Pickering Foreign Affairs Graduate Fellowship: **Michaiah Augustine '24**
- » Boren Scholarship: **Caroline Corbett '26**






# Learning Without Boundaries

Interdisciplinary learning is foundational to a liberal arts education. At Bucknell, students learn how to integrate and synthesize knowledge across disciplines to develop a more comprehensive and nuanced understanding of their academic pursuits. By cultivating critical-thinking skills and embracing diverse perspectives, Bucknellians are equipped with the tools needed to navigate complex issues in an increasingly interconnected world.





*Students in the Water Resources Engineering course conduct fieldwork to learn about the political, social and cultural forces that have shaped access to humanity's most indispensable resource.*

## Bridging Disciplines, Solving Challenges

**B**ucknell's commitment to interdisciplinary education creates unique learning opportunities that prepare students to tackle the world's most pressing challenges. For example, two Bucknell faculty members from different colleges have joined forces to address the management of Earth's most precious and finite resource: water.

"When we started to discuss changes to our more traditional Water Resources Engineering course, we wanted to bring engineering students outside their comfort zone and introduce new ways to think about the same problems," says Professor **Jessica Thomas Newlin '98**, civil & environmental engineering. She and Professor Claire Campbell, history, designed the course to teach engineering students to think of water not only as a physical resource to be managed but also as a product of political, social and cultural forces across history.

"We feel it's essential to teach students to consider the human history, experience and record of the decisions that they will make as practicing engineers, particularly because we're promising a liberal arts education for students in any college here," says Campbell.

This course is part of a broader initiative within the civil & environmental engineering department to introduce students to humanities-based frameworks for assessing engineering challenges. Engineers in this field not only handle technical aspects but also work on infrastructure projects that directly impact communities and populations. By merging these disciplines, Bucknell is cultivating a new generation of engineers who understand the mechanics of water systems and appreciate the complex human narratives that shape and are shaped by these systems.

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## FUELING THE HUMANITIES

A generous endowment gift from Laurel and **Michael Fountain '91** will enhance the Bucknell Humanities Center (BHC), established in 2016 with initial support from President John Bravman and a \$600,000 grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. This funding will strengthen the center's commitment to enriching students' understanding of themselves and the world through deep engagement with human histories, cultures and experiences. The BHC funds faculty research and teaching grants, supports student honors theses, mentors student Humanities Fellows and coordinates yearly programming. With this support and the newly formed BHC Alumni Advisory Council, the center aims to expand its commitment to scholarship, pedagogical innovation and interdisciplinary collaboration.



In Bucknell's newest interdisciplinary centers, students are challenged to examine how their academic interests intertwine with other fields of study. They're finding new paths of discovery and making connections across colleges as they explore data and cultivate an entrepreneurial mindset.

## Innovation in Action

In the Perricelli-Gegnas Center for Entrepreneurship & Innovation, Bucknellians pursue big ideas as they contribute to a growing culture of curiosity and creativity. Director Erin Jablonski is leading the center's development with a clear vision focused on ensuring students take purposeful action in pursuit of their goals. Through interdisciplinary collaboration, students across the University's three colleges will work on innovative projects that span diverse fields. Drawing from multiple perspectives, the center invites students to explore, experiment and develop creative solutions to real-world challenges.

**Jablonski's mission:** To help students take an idea from concept to existence. Her goal is to establish the center as a resource hub where students can find mentorship to expand their perspectives and refine their creative and business skills.

**The power of "why?":** Jablonski advises students to embrace an entrepreneurial mindset. "We encourage students to be curious, to walk through the world with their eyes wide open and to ask, 'Why do we do this, and why this way?'" Jablonski says. "This is how they will recognize opportunities for change."

**"Future-proofing" ideas:** To effect change, Jablonski says students must do the research needed to ensure credibility. Jablonski says this is a central purpose of the college experience, and she is committed to helping students gain knowledge, challenge convention and examine the consequences of action and inaction. "Good entrepreneurship requires thoroughly knowing your 'who.' Who cares? Who does this serve? Who is impacted?" she says. "To really create enduring value, the creator must lean into future-proofing. When an entrepreneurial mindset has been expansively embraced, and real value has been created for society, only then can we measure the impact of actions."



## SHOP, SELL, SUCCEED

The Campus Shop, located next to Bucknell's Campus Theatre, offers students a new avenue to sell products and market services directly to consumers. Jablonski coaches vendors on production, cost analysis and bringing ideas to market, then reviews sales data and trends to inform future strategies. Students profit based on their pricing strategy and contribute 10% of sales to support shop operations. By blending commerce and philanthropy, the shop is becoming more than a retail space — it's a launchpad for innovation and creativity.





Erin Jablonski (left) and Kelly McConville are driving exciting initiatives as the directors of two new academic centers.

## Driven by Data

**D**ata is everywhere, and learning how to use and understand it is a critical skill. Kelly McConville, the director of the Dominguez Center for Data Science, empowers students, faculty and staff in Bucknell's three colleges to harness the power of data in their academic and professional pursuits. By promoting data literacy across disciplines, the Dominguez Center ensures all Bucknellians possess the skills to navigate our data-driven world.

**McConville's mission:** To make the center a hub for data science practice and education that offers hands-on opportunities to enhance data collaboration and literacy. In her first year, McConville is guiding the Data Science Student Fellows Program, launching workshops and learning communities, and gathering community feedback to ensure the center's growth is based on data-driven insights.

**Elevating analysis:** McConville aims to foster a data-informed approach to problem-solving within the Bucknell community that will promote research, generate new discoveries and prepare students to lead in their fields. "Data-driven conclusions are often presented as facts in the news and academic spaces," she says. "But to contribute to conversations based on data, students need to be more than passive consumers of data-driven information — they must be active generators of data-informed discoveries."

**Data for all:** Through the center's programming, McConville is working to lower the barrier to entry into data exploration, capitalizing on approaches and methodologies common to other disciplines. "I see great potential for our community to guide a human-centered approach to data science," she says. "Thoughtful, engaged collaborations will help us think through the implications of our work. I hope students will learn to reflect on their decision analysis, understand the societal impact of their conclusions and show a curiosity for examining and thinking about data."

## ADDRESSING AI

Generative AI — a powerful, disruptive innovation — is already transforming daily life, the workplace and society. Its successes in diagnostics, translation, facial recognition and content generation highlight its potential, but McConville emphasizes the importance of understanding its limitations and the challenges in AI model development and use.

That's why she's focused on helping the Bucknell community examine the unanswered questions: Who gets to design AI

models? What data should be used? How should we prioritize which problems AI can and should address? And how are we going to regulate and govern AI? McConville will lead efforts to enhance AI literacy on campus, emphasizing the need for an interdisciplinary approach to address these challenges.

"Society will need AI-literate people to help answer these questions," she says. "With our three-college structure, Bucknell is poised to lead the conversation on responsible AI."



# Beyond the Classroom

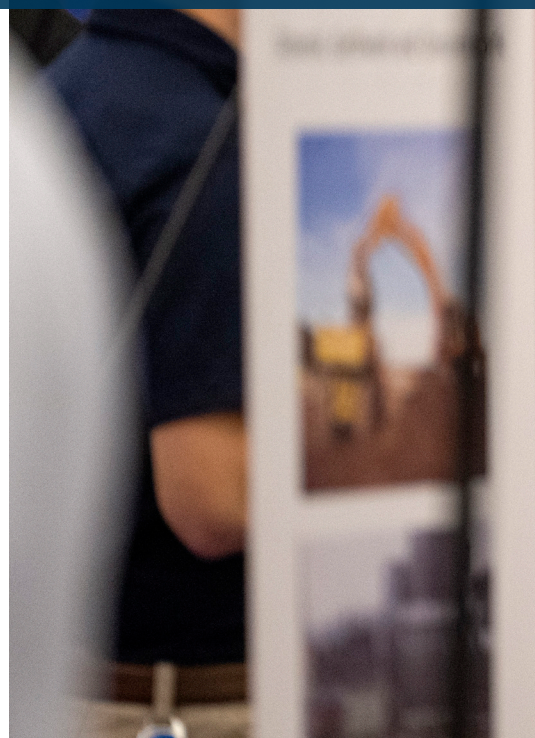
At Bucknell, dedicated centers and programs enrich the student experience beyond the classroom. The Center for Career Advancement connects students with opportunities to translate their classroom knowledge into meaningful careers, and the Center for Community Engaged Leadership, Learning & Research supports community engagement and collaboration. These centers help shape well-rounded individuals who not only excel academically but are also prepared to contribute positively to society.

## Building Career Confidence

**B**ucknell's Center for Career Advancement (CCA) supports students throughout their four years, providing personalized guidance and resources to ensure they are prepared for life after graduation. From one-on-one career counseling and internship opportunities to skill-building workshops, career fairs (right) and networking events with alumni, the CCA equips students with the tools and confidence needed to navigate their career paths.

One of the many innovative programs created by the CCA is the JumpStart Your Career course. **Paloma Flores Montero '25**, a markets, innovation & design major from Allentown, Pa., arrived at Bucknell as a transfer student through the Bucknell Community College Scholars Program. She was eager to start exploring career paths. "I took the JumpStart Your Career course as I was actively looking for internships," says Flores. **Pamela Keiser P'20**, executive director of career services, helped Flores polish her resume and locate job opportunities. "With the help of the CCA, I was able to narrow down the options and find an internship related to what I'm studying and what I want to do after college."

Flores secured a summer advertising internship in her hometown with Clear Channel Outdoor in the airports division, where she supported campaign planning and strategy. "I learned a lot," she says. "The internship helped me gain perspective and figure out that I'd like to pursue more opportunities in advertising."



### OUTCOMES

**93%**

Class of 2023 graduates secured opportunities within nine months of graduation\*

**No. 11**

Bucknell's ranking among liberal arts colleges for alumni mid-career salary†

**\$72,735**

Class of 2023 average starting salary\*

**89%**

Students who graduate within six years



Elmer Cruz '25 (far right) and Michael Hardyway '25 volunteer at a pop-up produce stand, which provides free vegetables and fruit to members of the Lewisburg community.

\*according to Bucknell's Center for Career Advancement †according to Payscale





## From Campus to Community

**B**ucknell students are driven by a shared goal: to make a difference. To help them turn this ambition into impact, in July, the University transformed the Office of Civic Engagement into the Center for Community Engaged Leadership, Learning & Research. The new center builds upon a long-standing commitment to connect students with Susquehanna Valley residents and organizations through hands-on programs that benefit the community and deepen students' understanding of complex issues, with initiatives addressing food security, economic development and sustainability. Central to this mission is a new minor in community engaged leadership, which challenges students to reframe conventional ideas about "community service" as they complete 260 hours of work with local organizations. "We know our students want to make a difference," says Katie Faull, associate provost for local & global engagement. "Recognizing the knowledge that local community members already hold is where students can begin to discover how to best partner with their neighbors."



# Where Rigor Meets Relevance

Bucknell's faculty are renowned experts in their fields, with 100% of tenure and tenure-track professors holding doctoral or equivalent terminal degrees, reflecting the University's commitment to academic excellence. Their ongoing scholarship and professional recognition elevate the University's reputation and enrich students' learning experience. A 9:1 student-faculty ratio allows professors to provide personalized attention and guidance. Their nuanced understanding of complex issues enables them to offer insightful analysis and inspire critical thinking.



## Guiding Global Perspectives

**P**rofessor Zhiquan Zhu, political science and international relations (above), is recognized globally as an authority on Chinese foreign policy. His insights are regularly sought by a wide range of media outlets, from Chinese state media to publications in Hong Kong, Taiwan, Japan and the United States, including The Associated Press, National Public Radio

and *Newsweek*. This broad scope reflects the nonpartisan approach Zhu brings to his work, offering analysis that transcends ideological boundaries. Zhu's expertise enhances Bucknell's academic reputation and students' understanding of global affairs by providing them with a non-Western perspective on key international issues.





## Championing Excellence

**W**endy Sternberg joined Bucknell in July as provost, the University's chief academic officer, marking a new chapter in her distinguished academic career. Drawn to Bucknell's strong commitment to the liberal arts, Sternberg aims to enhance the University's academic mission. With experience from Haverford, Union and Occidental colleges, she seeks to further integrate the liberal arts ethos across Bucknell's three colleges. Sternberg is committed to supporting faculty, fostering collaboration among disciplines, and promoting innovative teaching and research to enrich the learning environment.

“

“Each college has a strong foundation and identity, and they are all prepared to integrate further to provide students with an exceptional educational experience.”

*Wendy Sternberg, provost*



## EXPERT FACULTY, ENDLESS INSIGHTS

» Professor Matías Vernengo, economics and director of the Bucknell Institute for Public Policy, offers insights on inflation in the U.S. and South America. A former senior manager at the Central Bank of Argentina, Vernengo is a sought-after expert on global macroeconomic trends. Frequently featured on Al Jazeera and in South American media, he has provided analysis on the U.S. economy in interviews with NPR affiliates.



» Professor **Judy Grisel P'16**, psychology, is a behavioral neuroscientist and one of the world's leading experts on addiction. Grisel's work is inspired by her own struggle, chronicled in her 2019 *New York Times* bestseller *Never Enough: The Neuroscience and Experience of Addiction*. Her research focuses on the psychological characteristics of individuals likely to develop drug addictions.



» Professor Sarah Lower, biology, and her research team explore why some firefly species in North America may be at risk of extinction. Last year, she co-authored a study that analyzed data from the citizen science program Firefly Watch and machine-learning models to find that climate change may pose a greater threat to firefly populations than previously thought.



» Bucknell biology professors **DeeAnn Reeder P'16** and Ken Field were featured in *National Geographic's* August 2024 cover story for their groundbreaking research on bats' potential to carry the Ebola virus without falling ill. Supported by a \$2.9 million grant from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, their five-year study involves collaboration with Muni University in Uganda. Reeder and Field have offered invaluable hands-on experiences for Bucknell students, who have participated in fieldwork and data analysis to support the research. Their findings aim to provide key insights into preventing pathogen spillover and future pandemics, deepening students' engagement with real-world scientific challenges.



# Nurturing Our Students

At a residential institution where 87% of students live on campus, it's essential to create an environment where students can thrive academically and personally. By prioritizing health and wellness, the University helps students feel their best as they pursue their education. Among the initiatives aimed at enhancing well-being is a campus-wide ban on smoking and tobacco products, which fosters a healthier atmosphere for all. This policy is part of Bucknell's broader wellness efforts to support students throughout their college experience.

## Calm Minds Thrive

**T**he demands of rigorous coursework and a nonstop schedule can make academic life feel overwhelming. For students, finding moments to release stress and reconnect with themselves can help to restore balance. With this in mind, this past summer, a stone-inlaid labyrinth (right) was installed behind Rooke Chapel, complementing an existing labyrinth at the Bucknell Farm.

The labyrinths offer two calming places where Bucknellians can quiet their minds and regain mental clarity and focus. Walking the labyrinth can be a cathartic experience, helping individuals process emotions and release negativity. "The labyrinths provide a simple yet profound practice of centering oneself," says Kurt Nelson, director of religious & spiritual life. "In the midst of our busy lives, the winding path of the labyrinth offers a moment of pause, allowing us to return to our daily tasks with a renewed sense of calm and focus."

Labyrinths have historical Christian roots and were often incorporated into church architecture. Over time, they took on a broader spiritual significance, becoming meditative spaces for people of various faith traditions seeking peace and introspection.

The labyrinths have become integrated into campus life. Professor Jennie Stevenson, psychology, has used the Rooke Chapel labyrinth as a setting for her Neurophysiology of Wellbeing class, and the University's Multi-Faith Coalition holds weekly gatherings there.

These spaces align with Bucknell's broader effort to support mental and emotional well-being. "Having such visible and accessible spaces on campus is invaluable," Nelson says. "These labyrinths invite everyone to take a moment to center themselves, whether through a guided session or a personal, spontaneous visit."







## SCALING NEW HEIGHTS

The Douglas B. Hall '91 Rock Climbing Memorial, completed in October 2024 at the base of the Grove near the Gateway Apartments, honors the adventurous spirit of **Doug Hall '91**. An endowment created in his memory fuels Bucknell students' outdoor experiences — from rock climbing to kayaking — helping them explore healthy recreational outlets beyond the classroom.

## Holistic Health

**S**tudies indicate that today's students are experiencing higher levels of anxiety, stress and mental health challenges than previous generations. Academic pressures, social media influence and the uncertainties introduced by the pandemic have contributed to this trend. At Bucknell, we are building a comprehensive network of programs and services to meet students' evolving wellness needs.

In April, the University will participate in the American College Health Association-National College Health Assessment to evaluate health and wellness issues impacting students on campus. The survey will also provide the University access to data from over 100,000 students nationwide. The insights will guide Bucknell's efforts to enhance student-centered care through a robust public-health model.



# Investing in the Student Experience

At Bucknell, our commitment to students extends beyond providing a top-tier education — it drives our ongoing efforts to enhance the campus environment. We constantly seek opportunities to evolve and upgrade our facilities, ensuring that every change not only improves student life but also aligns with the University's dedication to sustainability and resilience. Each upgrade is carefully planned to create the best possible environment for living and learning.

## A Fresh Take

The college experience is defined by equal parts coursework, social engagement and self-discovery, with food serving as a vital element of that journey. In July 2024, Bucknell began a partnership with a new dining partner, Chartwells Higher Education, with the goal of transforming the dining experience for students. Raul del Orbe (below) has stepped into the newly created role of dining liaison, the first position of its kind at the University — and in higher education — to reimagine the role food can play in sustaining the student body and building a strong community.

### What does the dining liaison do?

My job is to bring authentic, flavorful food to campus to meet the needs of a diverse student body. Strong flavors evoke a sense of home and create an opportunity for cultural exchange and community building. I work closely with students to make sure that food not only nourishes their bodies, but also opens their minds to new possibilities, ideas and cultures.



### How does a dining liaison enhance the student experience?

For many students, going to college is their first time being on their own. A big part of becoming an adult and living independently is learning how to feed yourself, so I'm offering cooking classes that teach students how to prepare and budget for meals. Knowing how to cook inspires confidence, and that confidence extends to other areas of their lives.

### What is your own relationship with food?

I come from a Latin background. My family is from the Dominican Republic, and I grew up in New York, which is a melting pot of many different cultures. I want to bring that — all those flavors and backgrounds — here for students to experience.







## Energizing the Future

**S**ustainability is a Bucknell value woven into all aspects of campus life. “Bucknell’s culture is forward-looking, and that applies to sustainability,” says Dustin Herner, campus energy manager. Small yet impactful upgrades are constantly at work behind the scenes, making the campus a better place to learn and live.

**Commitment to sustainability:** Bucknell ensures that all new campus buildings and major renovation projects meet at least LEED Silver certification standards. LEED-certified buildings are designed to reduce environmental impact by conserving resources and lowering carbon emissions. These buildings often provide healthier indoor environments for occupants by improving air quality and natural lighting and using nontoxic materials, which can lead to better health and increased productivity.

- » The West Apartments (above) are a model of sustainable design, featuring geothermal heating and cooling, LED lighting and water-source heat pumps.
- » At the Weis Center for the Performing Arts, energy efficiency was enhanced in 2024 by replacing outdated equipment and improving the building automation system. Pneumatic controls were replaced with modern electronic consoles, substantial portions of ductwork were upgraded and energy-efficient lighting was installed.
- » Thanks to an anonymous \$1.65 million gift from an alumni couple, the Kinney Natatorium is undergoing significant upgrades, including a new HVAC system, which will boost operational efficiency.

**Funding green projects:** Bucknell’s Green Fund fosters innovation and drives positive environmental impact by providing financial assistance for campus-based green initiatives proposed by students, faculty and staff. “The University community is encouraged to submit proposals to help advance our sustainability goals and make a lasting difference for the campus and the environment,” Herner says.



# Financial Update

Each year, our community’s support drives growth at Bucknell. Thanks to generous gifts from our alumni, new centers are bringing together students and faculty from all three colleges, fostering collaboration and shared learning. At the same time, access programs and financial aid are opening doors for more talented and motivated students. With thoughtful stewardship of our resources, we’re building a thriving, inclusive and sustainable future.

## Bucknell Budget Summary

Our expert finance team balances expenditures and income and focuses on appropriately resourcing each facet of the University to create a best-in-class environment for all Bucknellians.



### INCOME

- Net Tuition & Fees **\$153M**
- Auxiliary Enterprises **\$48M**
- Investment Income **\$51M**
- Gifts & Contributions **\$14M**
- Other Revenue\* **\$14M**
- Grants & Contracts **\$6M**

*Income and expenses based on Bucknell University financial statements, June 2024*

*\*Includes interest and other income*



### EXPENSES

- Services & Supplies **\$80M**
- Depreciation **\$28M**
- Interest **\$6M**
- Salaries & Benefits **\$172M**

## FUELING THE FUTURE

Donors propel progress across campus. From enabling the launch of new initiatives to supporting the day-to-day needs of students, programs and departments, gifts to the University make an impact.

### TOTAL GIFTS

- TOTAL RECEIVED IN GIFTS AND PLEDGES \$45.4M**
- TOTAL ANNUAL FUND DESIGNATION \$14.1M**
- TOTAL ATHLETICS GIVING \$3.1M**

## THE BUCKNELL ENDOWMENT

Bucknell University’s endowment is its largest financial asset and serves as a perpetual source of financial support for its mission. The returns generated by the endowment support student financial aid, power Bison athletics, fund research and internship opportunities and ensure the growth of programs in all corners of campus.

### CATEGORIZATION OF ENDOWMENTS\*

- SCHOLARSHIPS & FINANCIAL AID 35%**
- INSTRUCTIONAL & ACADEMIC PROGRAMS 25%**
- GENERAL UNIVERSITY OPERATIONS 32%**
- FACILITIES 3% STUDENT SERVICES 2%**
- ATHLETICS 2%**

*\*Percentages do not total 100 due to rounding*

**LEARN MORE ABOUT THE HEALTH AND MANAGEMENT OF THE BUCKNELL ENDOWMENT IN OUR DIGITAL EDITION**

**GO.BUCKNELL.EDU/WINTER2025**







# New Leadership

In September, H. Daniel Hungerford was appointed Bucknell's vice president for finance & administration and chief financial officer, a critical role in developing strategic initiatives and fostering collaboration across campus. With an extensive background in budgeting, project management and operational efficiency, Hungerford will use his expertise in financial and strategic planning to guide the University in strengthening its financial operations.

## UNIVERSITY LEADERSHIP

**John C. Bravman**, President

**Wendy Sternberg**, Provost

**Param Bedi**, Vice President for Library & Information Technology

**Vernese Edghill-Walden '87**, Vice President of Equity & Inclusive Excellence

**Dan Hungerford**, Vice President for Finance & Administration and Chief Financial Officer

**Heather Johns P'27**, Vice President for Marketing & Communications

**Lisa Keegan**, Vice President for Student Enrollment, Engagement & Success

**Carol McLaughlin Kennedy '96**, Executive Director, Office of the President and University Secretary

**Jeffrey Loss**, Associate Vice President for Facilities

**Teresa McKinney**, Interim Associate Vice President & Fritz Family Dean of Students

**Brad Putman**, Richard E. Garman Dean of the College of Engineering

**Karin Riley**, Vice President, General Counsel and Chief of Staff

**Michelle Roehm**, Kenneth W. Freeman Professor and Dean of the Freeman College of Management

**Scott Rosevear**, Vice President for University Strategy & Advancement

**Jermaine Truax**, Vice President and Director of Athletics

**Karl Voss**, Douglas K. Candland Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences

**Nicole Whitehead**, Vice President for Talent, Culture & Human Resources

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

### OFFICERS

**Annie Seibold Drapeau '88**, Chair

**Scott A. Perricelli '94, P'25**, Vice Chair

**Erika N.D. Stanat '90**, Vice Chair

**Dawn M. Becker '85**, Secretary

**Samuel C. Nana-Sinkam Jr. '10**, Assistant Secretary

**John C. Bravman**, President

### TRUSTEES

**Carolyn Neely Ainslie '80**

**Daisy Auger-Domínguez '95**

**Keren Bergman '88**

**J. Frank Brown '78**

**Thomas A. Buchholz '84**

**Laureen Costa '90**

**Frank A. Davis '82, P'13**

**Lisa Cadette Detwiler P'18**

**Michael J. Dominguez '91**

**Lance M. Fritz '85**

**Makoto Fujimura '83, P'13**

**Martin K. Gilliard '99**

**Robert J. Gilligan '81**

**Eugene A. Gorab '85, P'12, P'16**

**Sunil Gulati '81**

**Donald N. Isken '75, P'12, P'20**

**Alexandra Ahrens Jung '92**

**Steven A. Kohn '81**

**Bridget LaCroix Lecky '09**

**Jordan H. Leiser '06**

**Carolyn Speer Miles '83**

**John T. Reynolds '92, P'27**

**Laurie E. Schmidt '99**

**Franklin K. Schoeneman '76, P'06**

**Garry D. Thaniel '04**

**Kecia M. Thomas '88**

**Scott Uebele '00**

**Kathryn Boselli Vizas '79**

**Audra M. Wilson '94**



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The Campus Shop opened in downtown Lewisburg in November. You'll be able to read more about this exciting new initiative in the Spring 2025 issue of *Bucknell Magazine*.





# The Bucknell University Endowment

The purpose of Bucknell's endowment is to provide a critical financial foundation and ensure the University's long-term sustainability. Unlike temporary funding sources, the endowment is a permanent investment fund designed to generate ongoing financial support by carefully preserving and growing its assets over time. It provides a stable source of income for student scholarships and financial aid; faculty research and development; academic program enhancements; campus infrastructure improvements; and strategic initiatives that advance Bucknell's goals. By ensuring financial resilience and bolstering adaptability, the endowment enables Bucknell to maintain its high educational standards and pursue innovative opportunities that enhance the University's mission, even through economic fluctuations.

## The Basics

### How is the endowment managed?

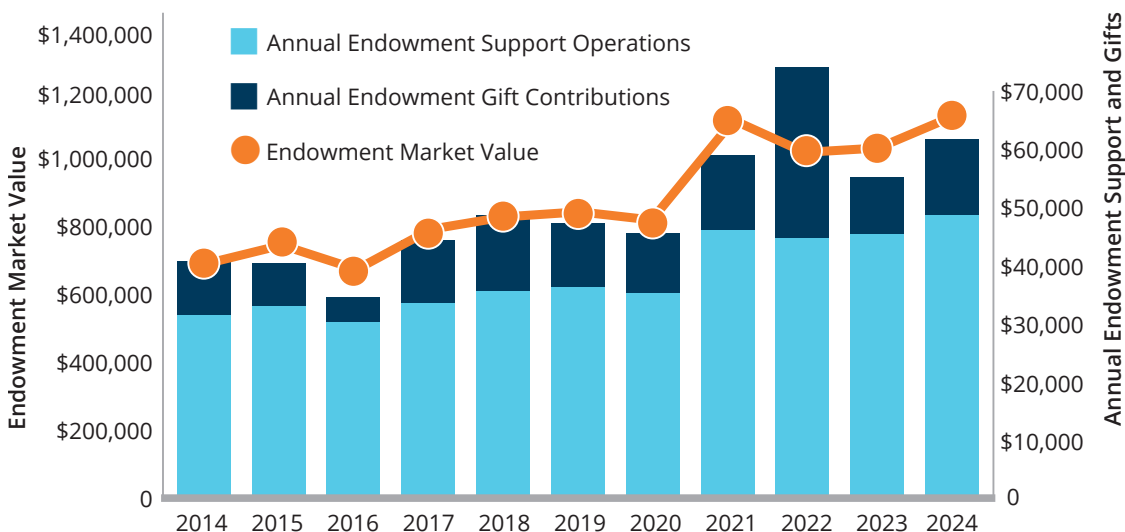
Bucknell employs a sophisticated, collaborative approach to endowment management, blending internal expertise with external professional insights to ensure strategic, long-term financial stewardship. This collaborative model integrates the efforts of Bucknell's Investment Office, University leadership and the Investments Committee of the Board of Trustees, alongside strategic advisers and specialized investment firms with proven expertise. Together, they shape a comprehensive Investment Policy Statement that defines clear objectives, establishes risk management protocols, and aligns investment strategies with Bucknell's long-term vision. This unified approach encourages diverse perspectives, fostering strategic thinking and responsible asset allocation to support the University's enduring financial goals.

### How does Bucknell allocate endowment funds?

Bucknell's endowment investment strategy balances growth, risk management and financial sustainability. Guided by the Investments Committee and outlined in the Investment Policy Statement, the endowment is invested across a diversified portfolio, including domestic and international stocks, fixed-income securities, real estate, hedge funds, and alternative investments such as private equity and venture capital. These funds are managed by external professionals through public funds and private partnerships, ensuring cost-efficiency and expert oversight.

Key investment principles include maintaining sufficient liquidity to support annual operations, protecting against significant market downturns and minimizing management costs through strategic fund selection. The endowment does not invest in individual securities directly and allows third-party managers to make that selection. A small percentage of the endowment is allocated to the Student Managed Investment Fund, where students apply investment criteria under faculty guidance. This disciplined strategy ensures Bucknell's financial sustainability while addressing current and future needs.

### 10 YEARS OF ENDOWMENT ACTIVITY



*\*monetary figures are in millions*



# Fiscal Year 2024: Performance and Market Behavior

In 2024, strategic investments in public markets, fixed income and real estate led Bucknell’s endowment fund to hold steady at a value of \$1.17 billion.

The endowment’s fiscal year performance exceeded its primary return objective of CPI+5.5%, which is designed to meet a spending rate in support of the University operating budget, account for inflation and encourage growth. However, the endowment underperformed relative to its internal benchmark, which assesses the health of the endowment’s performance against a selective group of public market indices aligned with its investment objectives. This benchmark is guided by a long-term strategic asset allocation framework that shapes the portfolio’s construction and

evaluates the effectiveness of the long-term investment strategy. The endowment delivered a positive absolute return of 10%, surpassing its primary return target of 8.9% (CPI +5.5%) but trailing the internal benchmark, which returned 13%.

A strong public equity market persisted through global tensions and climate challenges, with growth largely driven by technology and AI. U.S. economic growth slowed but was supported by a solid job market and consumer spending, encouraging hopes for lower interest rates. While European and Asian markets had mixed results, technology and renewable energy continued to attract private investment. Despite some challenges, investor optimism remained high in the face of ongoing global pressures.

\$1,167,280,000

MARKET VALUE

(as of June 30, 2024)

\$50,566,000

FISCAL YEAR 2024 SUPPORT TO UNIVERSITY OPERATIONS

26

NEW ENDOWMENTS IN FISCAL YEAR

1,275

TOTAL DONOR-ENDOWED FUNDS AS OF FISCAL YEAR END

ASSET ALLOCATION

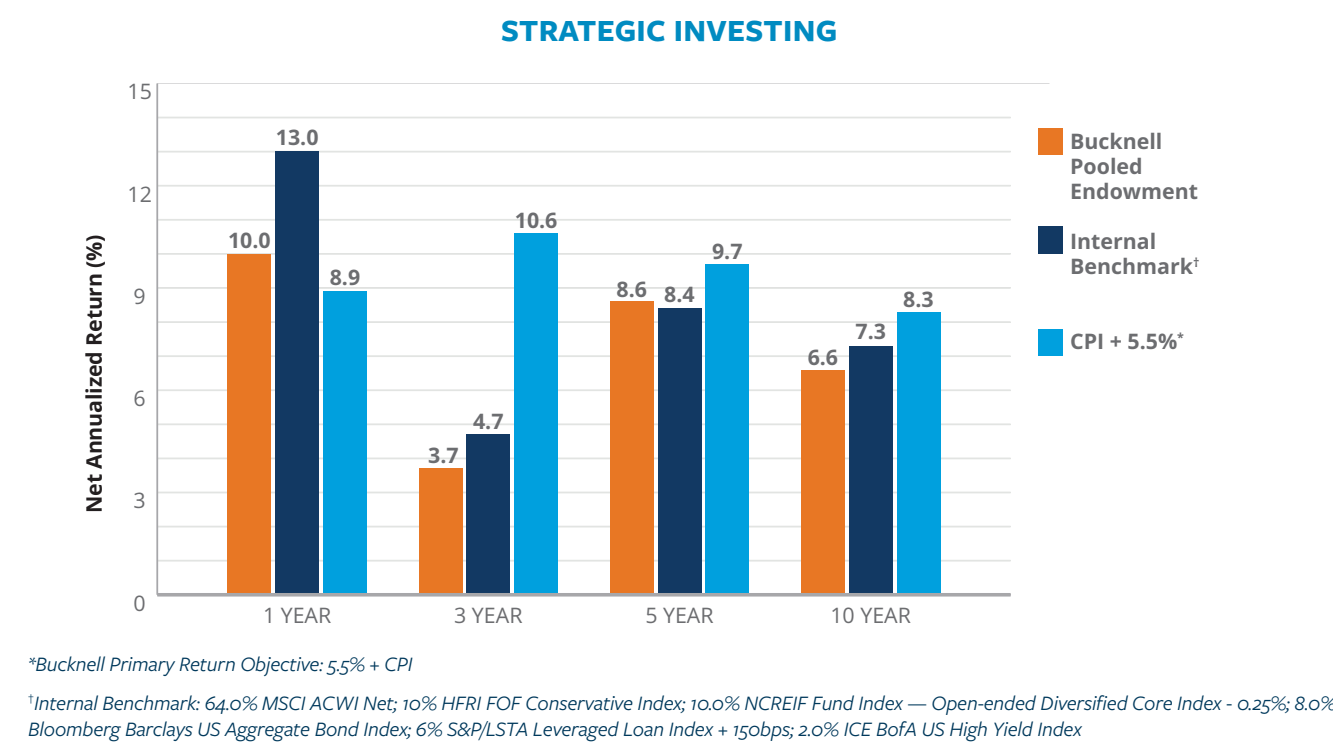
(% of endowment)

GROWTH ASSETS 64%

HYBRID ASSETS 17%

REAL ESTATE ASSETS 10%

LOW-VOLATILITY ASSETS 9%







## RESPONSIBLE INVESTING

At Bucknell, sustainability drives value creation through strategic green investments and initiatives to reduce environmental impact. The Investments Committee, a subset of Bucknell's Board of Trustees, has embedded sustainable practices into investment management, guided by its established Responsible Investing Guidelines. Campus efforts, led by the President's Sustainability Council, include a 10-year sustainability plan launched in 2022. The Office of Campus Sustainability and Bucknell Center for Sustainability & the Environment further support these impactful initiatives.

### ON-CAMPUS INITIATIVES

- » Campus boasts 16 LEED-certified buildings, including one platinum and seven gold
- » The Bucknell solar farm supplies 7.5 MW of power back to campus
- » A biodigester diverts an average of 300 pounds of food waste from landfills
- » Yearly sustainable move-out enables graduating students to donate gently used items to local charities

### EXTERNAL RECOGNITION

- » The Princeton Review ranks the University among its Top 50 Green Colleges
- » *U.S. News & World Report* recognized Bucknell among 14 Environmentally Friendly College Campuses
- » The Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education rated Bucknell Gold in the last two Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System review cycles



# Our Expanding Endowment

This year, 26 endowments were created, enabling the perpetual existence of programs that define the Bucknell experience — one that is bold, transformative and enduring.

Donald Bragg Knight Memorial Scholarship\*

Management Scholars Endowment

Ira T. Ellis Jr. Engineering Endowment

Terry J. Hibbard Mechanical Engineering Scholarship

Michael J. Dominguez '91 Fund for Data Science

Virginia Reed Demoreuille '73 Memorial Scholarship\*

John '75 and Catherine Durocher Shafer '76  
Scholarship for Arts & Sciences

Peter Bevis Endowment

Obler Kaufman Family Scholarship

Susan M. Spaven '65 Scholarship

Jason Snyder '95, M'98 Fund

David R. Hamill '81 Washington, D.C., Experience Fund

Jean Russell Fund for STEM Students\*

Gray Family BPIP Internship Fund

JoAnn Patrick-Ezzell '75 Scholarship

Convey Family Scholarship

Maxwell Family Scholarship

Cross Family Fund for Entrepreneurship  
and Innovation

Coach Bill Wrabley '51, M'60 Memorial Bison  
Football Training Program Endowment

Bucknell Varsity Men's Soccer Fund

Bucknell Varsity Baseball Fund

Phil and Linda Sterner Fund for the  
Center for Access & Success

Dale Duff Memorial Fund

Jamie Diaferia '94 Scholarship

Joseph J. Bosze '39, G'94 Scholarship\*

Fund for Men's Basketball Excellence

Fountain Family Fund for the  
Bucknell Humanities Center

Nelson M. Smith, Jr. '58 Fund for History

Jim Bolognese '74 Scholarship in  
Statistics and Data Science

Susan Corridoni '92 Fund for  
Entrepreneurship & Innovation

Harold and Sheila Richman Fund for Men's Basketball

## TWELVE OTHER ENDOWMENTS REACHED FULL FUNDING IN 2023-24

Lauren P. Breakiron Engineering Scholarship

James M. Gansinger '67 Scholarship

100 Years of Women in Engineering Scholarship Fund

William Thoms, Jr. '77 M.D. Engineering Scholarship

Bucknell on the Camino de Santiago Scholarship

Xin Liang & Xiu Chun Wong Chang Scholarship

Ehrlich Family Scholarship

Dr. Richard A. Lobban, Jr. Study Abroad Scholarship

Perricelli-Gegnas Center for Entrepreneurship  
& Innovation Endowment

David & Dianne Elderkin Scholarship

William '73 and Judith '75 Vogel Scholarship

Scott Thomas McMahon Scholarship

*\*Denotes new endowment gifts that achieved full funding in their first year.*