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## A Conversation with President Carlos Campo

ACTA has worked tirelessly to urge colleges and universities to safeguard freedom of speech on their campuses. The opportunity to express ideas freely and to engage in different ways of thinking helps develop the capacities at the heart of a comprehensive liberal arts education and a successful work-life. We advocate for colleges and universities to take a firm stand on intellectual freedom, and we are proud to have supported the initiative of a number of colleges and universities across the country to adopt the Chicago Principles—a statement protecting campus freedom of expression.

ACTA celebrates and congratulates all institutions that take stands to defend free speech, including Ashland University under the leadership of **President Carlos Campo** for its exemplary, campus-wide commitment to freedom of inquiry and expression. Dr. Campo talked with ACTA about this outstanding achievement, as well as his commitment to the liberal arts, and offered advice to trustees and college leaders.

### How did Ashland's free speech resolution come about?

It came about in a fairly organic way. We were tracking with the rest of the nation the demonstrations on campuses across the



country, particularly the growing sentiment about restricting free speech and deciding what kinds of voices should be heard on different campuses. We had been aware of the Chicago Principles for some time, and through the Ashbrook Center, we have a strong emphasis on free speech and religious freedom, which are values dear to the campus. Once the Berkeley incident concerning Milo Yiannopoulos touched public consciousness, the board asked us to review our current language on free speech and to

*(continued on 2)*

## Save the date for ATHENA 2018!

Join ACTA on **October 12, 2018** to celebrate ACTA's 14<sup>th</sup> annual ATHENA Roundtable Conference. The event will feature in-depth discussions by prominent scholars on pressing issues in higher education and will culminate in an evening gala presentation of the Philip Merrill Award for Outstanding Contributions to Liberal Arts Education. More information to follow soon!

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**The Honorable Hal Daub, Regent, University of Nebraska  
Former Mayor of Omaha and U.S. Representative**

“Your kind and thoughtful message was delivered to the President, his officers, and each of our seven other colleagues elected to the University of Nebraska Board of Regents at this morning’s regular January meeting. Your supportive analysis was well received and is a matter of the record that preceded a vigorous discussion and a unanimous adoption by recorded vote. Again, thanks for your input and wise counsel.”

*Editor’s Note: ACTA helped guide the university’s policy on freedom of expression.*

**Stephen Ludwig, Regent  
University of Colorado**

“Yesterday, CU’s Regents voted 9-0 for a \$20 million investment package to expand online education . . . Without your friendship, tutoring, guidance, and support throughout the past 11 years, this proposal—and the students that will benefit from it—would not have happened. Your passion for higher education and for service continues to make all the difference.”

**Joseph Fornieri, Professor  
Rochester Institute of Technology, NY**

“Thanks once again for this touching and important article. You were able to capture something often inexpressible between teacher and student. It was a pleasure working with you . . . Kudos for your good work and the good work of ACTA!”

**Erez Binyamin, Student  
Rochester Institute of Technology, NY**

“I loved the article! . . . Thank you for your kind words in the article and for the great work you and your team at ACTA are doing. It never fully occurred to me how significant Dr. Fornieri’s teaching was, and how lucky I was to have him until now.”

*Editor’s Note: ACTA explored the transformative connection between a student at Rochester Institute of Technology and the professor who mentored him. Erez Binyamin, an introverted sophomore, was profoundly inspired by Joseph Fornieri, a professor of political science who teaches his students the value of actively engaging with others who hold diverse viewpoints. Read at [GoACTA.org/the\\_forum/one-student-at-a-time](http://GoACTA.org/the_forum/one-student-at-a-time).*

**Carlos Campo Interview, continued from 1**

prepare our own version of the Chicago Principles. Support for the resolution was nearly simultaneous in the student senate and on the board, and in general, the institution has adopted the principles.

**What advice about this process can you give to other colleges and universities?**

Colleges and universities should have a comprehensive and collective discussion about what freedom of speech means for their campuses—about particular actions and protections that will ensure the safety of the campus, but also a deep consideration of the power of freedom of speech. Free and open inquiry is one of the true hallmarks of a great educational experience and institution. It comes with some concomitant difficulties. It is worth not just discussing, but also developing a clear approach to how free speech and the power of free speech are protected and revered. A careful understanding of the

alignment of the values of higher education with free speech is important to instill through very clear guidelines, so that people realize what the commitment is.

**Have you seen any effects on campus climate and attitudes toward free inquiry and exchange?**

“It became immediately apparent to us . . . that ACTA focuses on the principles that animate a good higher education.”

It is early on, but we have had more robust discussions, many led by students, more than ever before. I have instituted a session with students called Pizza, Pop, and Parley. The students and administration listed topics we’d like to discuss, to create basically an open forum, and there is tremendous excitement about

this. The faculty has been very encouraged that we’ve seen such an uptick in participation. The board lauds the work we’ve done and presses us to continue to uphold these principles and ensure that we are bringing many folks, even those with whom we disagree, to campus.

**You have an extraordinary background in the arts—from your upbringing and family life to your own Ph.D. work in drama. What role do you think the arts play in fostering a liberal education?**

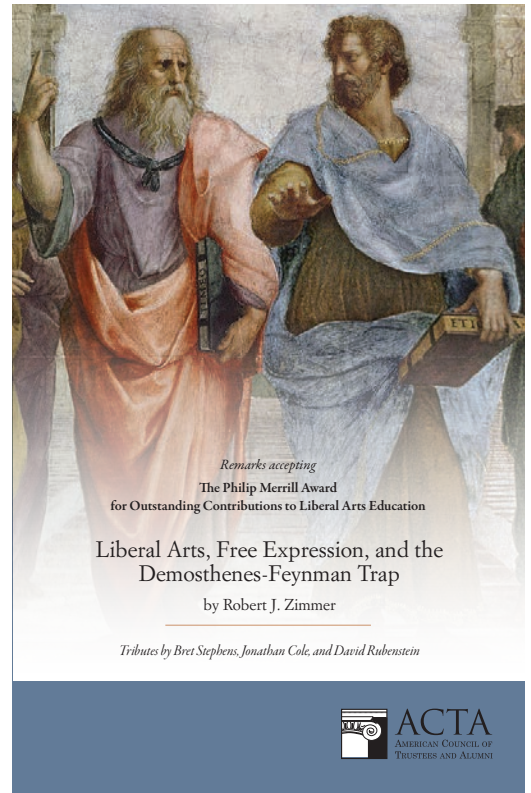
From my perspective, I was immersed in the culture of the arts in a way that brought me to a broad view of what is beautiful. My father loved classical music and classical dance. My mother not only taught herself to speak Spanish, but also read Russian novelists despite the fact that she never completed the ninth grade. That’s the culture I grew up in, and I didn’t appreciate it as fully as I do today,

*(continued on 7)*

## \$125 Million Gift to the University of Chicago

Citing the University of Chicago's unwavering stance on free speech and excellence in economics, Citadel CEO Kenneth Griffin announced a \$125 million gift to the University of Chicago in November. Mr. Griffin, a graduate of Harvard University, became a University of Chicago trustee in 2014. His gift will go to the Department of Economics and support new research and financial aid for students. Under the leadership of President Robert Zimmer, the University of Chicago has gained national recognition for its defense of academic freedom through the "Chicago Principles," which serve to protect free expression and robust liberal arts education on campus. Mr. Griffin commented, "I am proud to support the extraordinary work of the Economics Department and a university so fundamentally committed to free expression, fierce debate, and intellectual pursuit."

ACTA recently published and distributed Dr. Zimmer's speech, given at his acceptance of the Philip Merrill Award for Outstanding Contributions to Liberal Arts Education at our ATHENA gala. In *Liberal Arts, Free Expression, and the Demosthenes-Feynman Trap*, Dr. Zimmer richly articulates why the university has such a deep commitment to academic freedom: "To diminish free expression," he says, "is quite simply to diminish the quality of education." A free and open discourse and "openness to divergent and clashing ideas" are essential functions of institutions of higher education that serve to shape the important ideas of our time. ACTA has long worked to influence colleges and universities to adopt principles that defend academic freedom, and we urge them to look to the example of the University of Chicago. ●



## ACTA ATHENA Speakers Make Headlines



In October, Dillard University President **Walter Kimbrough**, a speaker at ACTA's 2017 ATHENA Roundtable panel on academic freedom, was featured in the *Chronicle of Higher Education*. The lengthy article detailed his rise as a nationally-recognized leader in higher education and a vocal champion of free speech. Dr. Kimbrough has a history of intellectual fearlessness. At Dillard, he often invites contro-

versial speakers in order to open wide the door of rigorous debate that leads to critical new insights. When students protested the participation of white supremacist David Duke at a senatorial debate the school had agreed to hold, Dr. Kimbrough held firm, remarking that Mr. Duke's presence allowed Dillard to uphold its long tradition of hearing and debating all points of view on cam-

pus. ACTA applauds his unwavering dedication to the primary mission of higher education: preparing students for thoughtful and informed participation in workplace and community.

And in January, one of the recipients of ACTA's Philip Merrill Award for Outstanding Contributions to Liberal Arts Education, **Niall Ferguson**, was featured in the *New York Times*. A fellow of the Hoover Institution at Stanford and an award-winning author, Dr. Ferguson shared his recommendation of Charles Murray's book *Coming Apart* and criticized the students who assaulted Dr. Murray and Professor Allison Stanger at Middlebury College last year. Professor Ferguson's new book, *The Square and the Tower*, was released in January to a glowing review in the *Wall Street Journal*. ●







## University of Colorado and Purdue Innovate to Meet Students' Needs

ACTA is always eager to highlight institutions that challenge the status quo and achieve significant breakthroughs in higher education. The University of Colorado (CU) and Purdue University are entering 2018 at full speed with new projects that make their schools national models for innovation and progress. Trustees should look to these institutions for cost-cutting strategies, rigorous academic programs, and strategies to improve student outcomes.

At ACTA's ATHENA Roundtable last October, CU regent **Stephen Ludwig** spoke passionately about his commitment to making a college education accessible for all students. CU advances this cause through guaranteed admission for community college students—an initiative spearheaded by Mr. Ludwig as a regent—and through the elimination of all course-

related fees at the Boulder campus. This year, the Board of Regents has even bigger plans. In November, CU's regents voted 9-0 in favor of a \$20 million investment

enrollment program will provide resources for underserved high school students to gain 30 hours of CU credit before they graduate. These new programs have been crafted directly to increase access for all students, especially first-generation college students, rural students, and working adults, who are quickly becoming crucial populations in higher education.

Purdue University is also taking innovative steps to reach diverse students and improve online education. It recently announced the name Purdue University Global for its new online university created through the acquisition of the for-profit Kaplan. Another ATHENA panelist, **Michael Berghoff**—appointed to Purdue's Board of Trustees by former Indiana governor and the institution's current president Mitch Daniels—spoke about Purdue's willingness to take



Michael Berghoff and Stephen Ludwig at ACTA's ATHENA Roundtable conference.

package to expand online education. The proposal will establish two degrees, one at the bachelor's level and one at the master's level, for total costs of \$15,000.

It will also identify several degrees to expand fully online, specifically to meet Colorado's workforce needs. A concurrent

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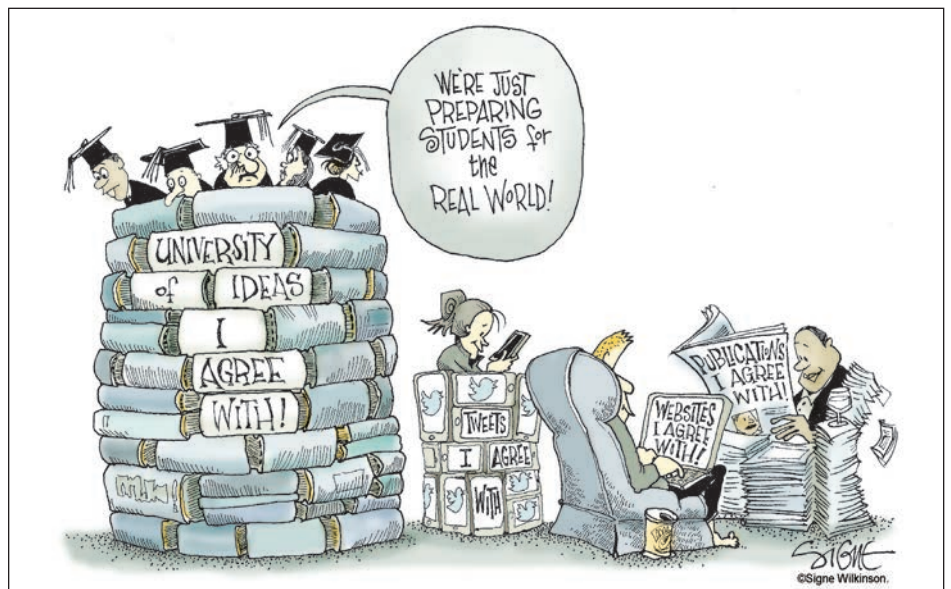
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# H E A R D C A M P U S ON

## Colleges Close Doors

The end of 2017 saw the closure of many private and religious institutions beset by declining enrollment and financial challenges. Among the schools that announced closures in October and November are the Memphis College of Art, Marygrove College in Detroit, and St. Gregory's University in Oklahoma. Grace University, a Christian college in Nebraska, will halt operations this spring. Wheelock College has announced a merger into Boston University; Holy Cross College in Indiana and Wheeling Jesuit University in West Virginia are attempting to save funds by selling off land; and the historic Moody Bible Institute of Chicago will close one campus and cut faculty to make ends meet. These events are reminders that the situation for many institutions is highly precarious and their future will depend on bold and innovative practices.

Many small schools have been unable to escape climbing operational deficits, or to garner interest from new student populations. School closings underscore the need for more fiscal responsibility and inventive approaches to higher education. Trustees and administrators can find practical recommendations on how to rein in costs and make the most of their resources in ACTA's many helpful publications. Our most recent report, *How Much is Too Much? Controlling Administrative Costs through Effective Oversight*, has helped institutions across the country understand their spending patterns.

## Knox and Brandeis Censor Plays

Last November, student protests at Brandeis University caused the school to cancel the world-premiere of a play based on the life of dissident comedian Lenny Bruce. The protesters decried the play's portrayal of the Black Lives Matter movement, and members of the Brandeis theater faculty agreed, saying that any production that "may cause discomfort, including the legacy of Lenny Bruce" must be accompanied by additional educational programming. In the same month, Knox College in Illinois canceled a production of Bertolt Brecht's play *The Good Person of Szechwan*, saying the performance should not come at "the emotional distress of students" uncomfortable with perceived racial insensitivity.

In an article published in the *Boston Herald*, ACTA President Michael Poliakoff exposes the sad ironies of these two episodes. He notes how Brecht and Bruce, both at one time silenced by the right—Brecht was brought before the House Committee on Un-American Activities in 1947 for the radical nature of his work, and Bruce was prosecuted in 1961 for "obscenity"—are now being banished from campuses by the left. And this occurred at Brandeis, named for a historic guardian of the First Amendment. Dr. Poliakoff urges colleges and universities to fulfill their stated missions of not only protecting, but also robustly encouraging, the free exchange of ideas. These institutions, "once a relatively reliable sanctuary for that exchange, the cradle of intellectual freedom," must not shy away from the rich debate that incubates the great ideas and literature of our nation's brightest minds.

## The Search is On: UT Chancellor

The University of Texas System is looking for a new chancellor, following William McRaven's announcement that he will step down in May. The UT System, noted for its rigorous scientific research, includes many notable institutions—an outstanding flagship in Austin and three National Cancer Institute centers. A new chancellor faces the formidable tasks of negotiating at the state legislature level and directing the system's 14 institutions serving more than 230,000 students.

The *Austin American-Statesman* turned to President Michael Poliakoff for his insights on the search. He commented that the number of people who can effectively lead a system of such "extraordinary stature and achievement" is a "limited pool" and must be evaluated with the greatest seriousness. Any potential candidate, stressed Dr. Poliakoff, must be "somebody who understands perfectly that the purpose is to serve the people of Texas through the University of Texas System." ACTA strongly recommends a candidate who will uphold the UT System's stated mission of prioritizing its students, patients, and above all "the well-being of the citizens of Texas" through accountable governance, rigorous academic programs, and protection of academic freedom on its campuses. ●

## Effective Trusteeship, *continued from 4*

risks in order to cut unnecessary spending and reach more students. By acquiring Kaplan, Purdue seeks to make a high-quality education affordable for working adults and to meet the unique challenges that they face as they juggle jobs, childcare, and financial constraints. Purdue's leadership recognizes the urgency to expand the opportunities that only a college education can provide.

Purdue and the University of Colorado are models for the much-needed transformations that are imperative for trustees as they seek to make the missions of their colleges and universities appeal to a wider audience. ●



## ACTA Adds 65<sup>th</sup> Program to Oases of Excellence Initiative

**A**t **American University** (AU), students benefit from rigorous programs that build upon the greatest ideas of classical education. In October, the American University Center for Innovation (AUCI) joined the Political Theory Institute (PTI) as the second Oasis of Excellence at the University. It is now one of just four institutions to house two ACTA-designated Oases, along with the University of Arizona, Georgetown, and Yale. ACTA's Oases of Excellence initiative promotes rigorous academic programs that introduce students to the best of the liberal arts and sciences, teaching our American heritage and ensuring students free inquiry into a broad range of intellectual viewpoints.

Directed by Siri Terjesen, the Dean's Faculty Fellow in Entrepreneurship, the AU Center for Innovation provides a minor in entrepreneurship that includes the study of areas vital to a robust liberal arts education, including capitalism, economics, and classical liberalism. Upon this traditional foundation, students join forces with educators and

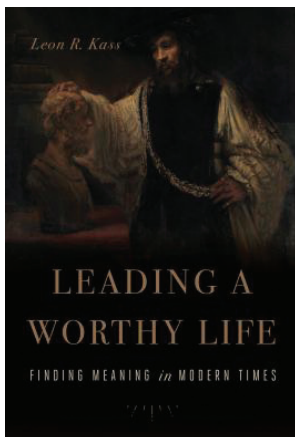
experienced entrepreneurs to design business models and undertake new initiatives that address real-world problems. Undergraduates, graduate students, and alumni can submit ideas for for-profit and nonprofit startups to AUCI's Entrepreneurship Incubator program, which provides projects that meet the program's criteria with resources, mentorship, and networking opportunities.

Through AUCI, graduate student Megan Nelson founded MicroInvestigate, which helps to diagnose infectious diseases more accurately; and public health student Maria Rose, with support from AUCI, received an award from President Obama for her food supply startup called MEANSDatabase. ACTA is delighted to recognize these two excellent programs at American University and applauds their innovative efforts to provide students with the opportunities, crucial skills, and critical perspectives that will prepare them for successful careers upon graduation. ●

### Leading a Worthy Life: Finding Meaning in Modern Times

(Encounter Books, New York, NY 2017)

by Leon R. Kass



**F**or more than 30 years, first at St. John's College and then at the University of Chicago, Leon Kass, along with his wife Amy Kass, of blessed memory, has helped students and colleagues pursue the most important questions of life through close study of great works of literature, philosophy, and science and through enriching dialogue. Students who are the grateful beneficiaries of his classes, his fellow members on the President's Council on Bioethics, and his colleagues at the American Enterprise Institute, where he is Madden-Jewett Scholar, will read this book and once again be reminded why Leon Kass is one of our country's national treasures.

It is with great delight that ACTA directs its *Inside Academe* readers to Leon's most recent work for its exceptional relevance to our supporters and friends. ACTA's central mission is to combat what Leon calls "the higher cynicism [that] mocks any innocent love of wisdom or love of country." With our tireless defense of the liberal arts and our embrace of excellent teaching, ACTA is trying to restore meaning to the pursuit of higher education.

The book is organized with an opening overview of the question of finding meaning in modern life and how our great technological blessings and scientific age are also "curses" or obstacles to that. Four sections of essays, some written with Amy, follow this overview: Love, Family, and Friendship; Human Excellence and Human Dignity; In Search of Wisdom; and The Aspirations of Mankind: Athens, Jerusalem, and the Gettysburg Address.

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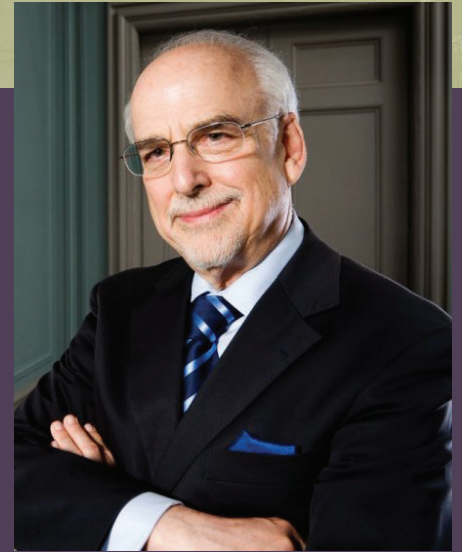


## In Memoriam: Bruce Cole

It is with great sadness that we mourn the loss of The Honorable Bruce Cole, who passed away on January 9. It is a difficult task to summarize adequately the legacy of this most-accomplished scholar and passionate civic leader. Dr. Cole's influence reached into many spheres of our society throughout his career as a brilliant and internationally-acclaimed art historian and professor, decorated public servant, and as chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Dr. Cole shared his expertise at Indiana University–Bloomington for almost 30 years as Distinguished Professor of Fine Arts in the College of Arts and Sciences. He was a fellow at the Kunsthistorisches Institut in Florence and held grants from the Guggenheim Foundation, the American Council of Learned Societies, the American Philosophical Society, and the UCLA Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies. He demonstrated an unflagging dedication to teaching, which ACTA staff observed firsthand when he came to share his vast knowledge and innovative work with us last summer. The discussion ranged from civic education, digital humanities, and the evolution of art, to the museums of the world. He also offered his insights on our podcast, Higher Ed Now. As the chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities from 2001 to 2009, Dr. Cole spearheaded several crucial initiatives vital to our nation's spirit in the wake of the September 11 terrorist attack. His initiative *We the People* encouraged Americans to teach and study our nation's history and culture to preserve our heritage of freedom. Extending the appreciation and understanding of visual art outside of higher education, his *Picturing America* project brought America's most acclaimed and inspirational artwork into over 55,000 schools and public libraries, and 20,000 Head Start centers across the country.

As a trustee at Indiana University, Dr. Cole joined his wealth of knowledge in the humanities and untiring commitment to excellence with ACTA's efforts to help the study of the liberal arts flourish. To say we have benefited from his work does not begin to encapsulate his contributions as a national leader and remarkable intellectual. His compelling achievements, generous nature, and brilliant mind will not be forgotten. ❶



### Book Review, continued from 6

ACTA friends will want to attend especially to the section on In Search of Wisdom, for its excellent analysis of how a truth-seeking education can enable human life to flourish.

In one of the later sections of the book on Aristotle's *Ethics*, Leon discusses how the book itself is, or exemplifies, a great act of friendship: "From the very start, Aristotle has been inviting us to examine ourselves, to reflect on our socially cultivated humanity and to ponder the human soul beneath it." Readers of *Leading a Worthy Life* may go forward in their modern lives, elevated by a new thoughtfulness and grateful to Leon Kass for this latest act of friendship. ❶

### Carlos Campo Interview, continued from 2

but my parents were nurturing in us this greater sense of the power of the arts. One of the great transcendent elements of art is that it speaks to each generation in its own way. Great art calls the human spirit—a great yearning within us to be better. That's one of the things that great artistic work and study can continue to nurture and is one of the reasons that I have dedicated my life to these principles.

**ACTA has been honored to work with you for quite a number of years. Could you talk about your experiences at both Regent University and Ashland University collaborating with ACTA?**

It became immediately apparent to us at Regent that ACTA focuses on the principles that animate a good higher education. We've been so impressed with the

excellence, rigor, and intellectual depth that we've found at ACTA—the candor and authenticity that is part and parcel to the work that you do. You've challenged higher ed in the right way. ACTA has risen above the culture wars, and has gotten to the fundamentals of what makes an excellent educational experience. You have never proposed a straitjacket approach, but talk about what the framework of a great education is. ACTA's publications demand the reader to engage and to go beyond: to explore what makes for great intellectual inquiry. What makes for an outstanding academic experience? How do we know we are committing the right dollars to the student experience? You focus on the fundamentals of student education. That's what stands out for us. ❶



**ACTA**  
AMERICAN COUNCIL OF  
TRUSTEES AND ALUMNI

## INSIDE ACADEME

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



## Considering a donation to higher education? FIVE TIPS FOR COLLEGE PHILANTHROPISTS

- 1** When making your gift, avoid the university's "pre-set" giving templates. Seek counsel experienced in crafting gift agreements to make sure your donation represents your values and intent.
- 2** Consider making your gift to a school other than your alma mater, especially if you graduated from a wealthy, top-tier college. What would be a modest gift at an Ivy League school can make a significant impact at a smaller college or program that aligns with your interests.
- 3** Involve a faculty member. College administrations change, but tenured faculty tend to stay and will be able to see your donation's intent through.
- 4** Just like a smart investor, make sure there is a transparent audit process in place so you are able to track the progress of your gift. Creating stipulations for regular meetings, an advisory board, or other active engagement can go a long way in preserving your gift's intent.
- 5** Pool your contribution with like-minded donors in FAR's Special Purpose Funds, maximizing the effect of your gift. These pooled funds allow donors big and small to support high-quality liberal arts programming in subjects ranging from history to economics.

**FAR offers advisory services to higher education donors about how to make a gift with enduring impact, and provides these services without charge. For more information, please call 202.467.6787, visit [AcademicRenewal.org](http://AcademicRenewal.org), or write us at [info@AcademicRenewal.org](mailto:info@AcademicRenewal.org).**