



The Class of 1973 Special Fund for Student Success



WHAT IS THE MAIN PURPOSE OF THE SPECIAL FUND?

Supporting Native American and Indigenous students who are attending Lawrence and enhancing the retention and recruitment of these students.

WHY THESE STUDENTS?

- The Appleton and Björklunden campuses are located on lands originally belonging to Native American peoples. Wisconsin is home to 11 federally recognized tribes.
- These students have been a part of Lawrence since its founding, and Lawrence believes that recognizing these connections and communities is integral to the university's mission.
- Only a few of these students have been on campus in recent years.
- To thrive at Lawrence, these students need to be part of a cohort in which support is provided to each other and by others in the university community.
- Indigenous students face hidden and burdensome costs.
- Our class can make a positive difference, directly through the Special Fund and indirectly by influencing others in the Lawrence community to enhance support for Indigenous students.

IS THERE A SPECIFIC DOLLAR GOAL FOR THE SPECIAL FUND?

As is the case with many questions raised in the liberal arts, the answer is “yes and no.” Our minimum goal is \$100,000, which will ensure the Special Fund is endowed. Usually, about 5% of an endowed fund is spent each year, meaning \$100,000 would generate approximately \$5,000 a year in spending for these students.

However, more can be accomplished if we raise, say, \$500,000, generating \$25,000 a year in spending power. That amount might seem daunting at first blush, but based on other 50th reunion experiences, it is attainable.

WHAT ARE SOME EXAMPLES OF HOW THE SPECIAL FUND WILL BE USED?

- Bringing indigenous high school students to campus
- Attendance at high school-to-college bridge programs
- Aid to the Lawrence University Native American (LUNA) student organization
- Mentoring and networking
- Internships and study abroad
- Books, music and science supplies, transportation, medical costs, emergency needs



“As an enrolled member of the Stockbridge-Munsee (Mohican Nation) and a descendant of the Menominee Nation in Wisconsin, I am a first-generation college student and proud graduate of Lawrence University. Education has always been the intellectual ladder I am most ambitiously driven to climb – perhaps rooted in the knowledge that my own Indigenous ancestors had little access to the possibility of pursuing their individual higher education goals and dreams. This special fund could be a historical game-changer for scholars interested in pursuing their educational goals without the added stress of financial barriers at Lawrence.

Although I am the only Native American professor currently teaching at LU, I very much look forward to the day when that number grows through the roof in the near future!”

—*Brigetta Miller, Associate Professor of Music Education/Ethnic Studies ([bio](#))*

HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE SPECIAL FUND?

Please contact any member of the Reunion Class Gift Committee:

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