the case for support

Simmons graduates have always been bold about taking steps to prepare for the future – and so has the College. Simmons began with a big idea: prepare women for meaningful careers and lives through an education that combines the liberal arts and sciences with professional preparation. Today, we’re educating more than 2,000 undergraduate women and more than 2,600 graduate women and men from 40 states and 39 countries.

For more than a century, Simmons has stepped up to the challenge of meeting the evolving needs of our students and our world. Now we’re ready to take more strides forward in a community-wide, comprehensive campaign committed to Making Education Work.

Our campaign builds on the College’s traditional strengths in ways that will make our students — and Simmons itself — better prepared than ever for the future. The campaign’s two strategic goals are as powerful as they are practical:

- **Increase access to a Simmons education.** A Simmons education transforms students and through them, the world. So we’re determined to make the College more accessible to students who have what it takes to succeed at Simmons. That means funding new scholarships and other forms of financial help – and growing our endowment.

- **Enhance the Academic Experience.** Leaders need to stay ahead of the curve. Simmons is committed to pushing our already impressive academic programs to the next level of excellence. That requires making sure our faculty have a powerful base of resources to keep themselves and our students at the forefront of their fields.

These goals directly support the vision of the strategic plan that’s guiding the College’s progress through 2014. The success of our campaign will allow Simmons to move confidently into the future and stay true to its distinctive mission – one that continues to have a huge impact on our students and the wider world. Simmons students, alumnae/i, and faculty are improving their communities and professions as leaders in healthcare, education, social work, library and information science, business, government, communications, and many other fields.

Our shared legacy has never been stronger. In recent years, we’ve worked aggressively to enhance our academic programs, boost enrollment, strengthen our finances, and revitalize our academic and residential campuses. Thanks to our collective efforts, Simmons is widely recognized as “one of the best.”

- *U.S. News & World Report* names Simmons a “Best College.”
- *Forbes.com* lists Simmons as one of “America’s Best Colleges” in its first ranking of undergraduate colleges and universities
- *The Princeton Review* recognizes Simmons as one of the country’s “Best 368 Colleges,” and among the “great schools for education majors.”
- *Entrepreneur* magazine and *The Princeton Review* featured the School of Management’s graduate entrepreneur program as one of the 25 best in the nation.
- *U.S. News & World Report* rates the Simmons Graduate School of Library and Information Science among the top 10 schools of its kind in the country.

The Simmons community can be proud of its accomplishments and recognition. But we can’t stand still; we need to keep moving forward by pursuing our two strategic goals for Making Education Work.

an opportunity for every member of the simmons community

Our Making Education Work campaign is an opportunity for every member of the Simmons community to help ensure the future of the College and its mission. We’re confident our collective effort to increase access to a Simmons education and enhance the College’s academic strength will expand the reach of our historic mission, and amplify its impact on the world for years to come.
MAKING EDUCATION WORK: CASE FOR SUPPORT

GOAL: enhance the academic experience

The exceptional, student-centered learning environment at Simmons combines the intimacy of a college with the academic resources of a small university. Our students thrive in a collaborative community that offers small classes, hands-on learning, and close faculty/student interaction. Professors don’t just know students’ names, they know their aspirations and goals.

Our campaign will further enhance the academic experience at Simmons by securing support to:

• Increase faculty and student research
• Enrich programs and curricula
• Establish enhanced academic appointments
• Expand experiential learning opportunities, including internships and study abroad
• Invest in labs, educational technology, and other teaching tools

Philanthropic support for these enhancements will ensure the ongoing academic vitality of Simmons—and help raise its profile. Our students will continue to graduate equipped with the knowledge and skills they need to contribute to society. Like generations of Simmons students before them, they’ll be ready to engage with the world as soon as they graduate. Throughout their lives, they’ll thrive as citizens and leaders who address the most pressing issues—locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally.

GOAL: increase access to a Simmons education

Simmons was founded to give more women access to education and its rewards. Today, our commitment to access remains paramount. Our admissions staff travels the country and partners with alumnae/i volunteers to promote awareness of Simmons and encourage a diverse range of students to apply. When qualified applicants are accepted, we work closely with them to help make Simmons as affordable as possible.

The result is a diverse student body comprised of students from around the corner, the country, and the world. Approximately 21 percent of our students are from African, Latino/a, Asian, Native American, or multi-racial backgrounds, and 6 percent are from outside the United States.

Our successful campaign will do more than sustain our tradition of accessibility—it will take it to a new level.

We will concentrate on:

• Funding new and larger scholarships
• Creating other, innovative funds to reduce students’ dependence on burdensome loans
• Increasing our endowment to lower the College’s dependence on tuition

Rallying alumnae/i and friends around these strategic priorities will help Simmons confidently navigate issues confronting all institutions of higher education today: a shaky national economy that’s tightening family budgets; rising costs that are pushing up tuition; and demographic changes that are shrinking the pool of prospective students—especially in New England. Most importantly, gifts to promote access will help change the lives of students—particularly those who might otherwise watch their goal of a Simmons education slip from their grasp solely because of finances.

“If our extraordinary community of Simmons alumnae/i, students, faculty, staff, and friends works together with common purpose and zeal, our future knows no bounds.”

— President Helen Drinan ’75LS, ’78SM

making education WORK.