



175th Anniversary Campaign: Strengthening Defiance College

Dear Alumni/ae and Friends:

Imagine life 175 years ago. Now think about all that Defiance College had adapted to in its 175 years of existence. It is exciting that the college will celebrate its 175th Anniversary during the 2025-26 academic year. As is customary for such a celebration, we are launching our anniversary campaign, *Strengthening Defiance College*. The campaign will help the college in so many ways. Although tuition and fees are primary sources of revenue for the college, they don't fully fund the cost of a Defiance College education. Campaign gifts supply the margin of excellence that helps ensure quality across campus now and beyond our 175th Anniversary. Our goal is \$2 million.

I'm so proud of the work that has been done at the college since 2016. These are just some of the successes to date:

- Strengthened our academic quality by hiring stellar faculty. We have moved the percentage of faculty with Ph.D.'s from 55% to 81% (benchmark is 70%).
- Added 17 new academic programs including civil, electrical, and mechanical engineering options in partnership with the University of North Dakota.
- Launched *Jacket Journey*, an award-winning career readiness program that is nationally unique because it is required and "for credit."
- Increased our placement rate for graduates from 74% to a five-year average of 95% (benchmark is 90%).
- Celebrated 20 years of the McMaster School for Advancing Humanity that provides opportunities for undergraduate students to conduct community-based research alongside faculty members.
- Announced shifting our governance model for athletics to the NAIA which enables us to offer athletic scholarships in addition to academic scholarships.
- Launched our *DEFine Your Future* program, a tuition reduction of 25% that includes an option for students to participate in DC Advantage – a student loan repayment guarantee program.

The City of Defiance was established in 1823; Defiance College was established in 1850. We have been and will continue to be an important part of our local community with a significant economic impact on our geographic region.

I hope you will consider supporting the future of Defiance College by making a gift to our 175th Anniversary Campaign, *Strengthening Defiance College*.

Together!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richanne C. Mankey".

Richanne C. Mankey, Ed.D.
President, Defiance College