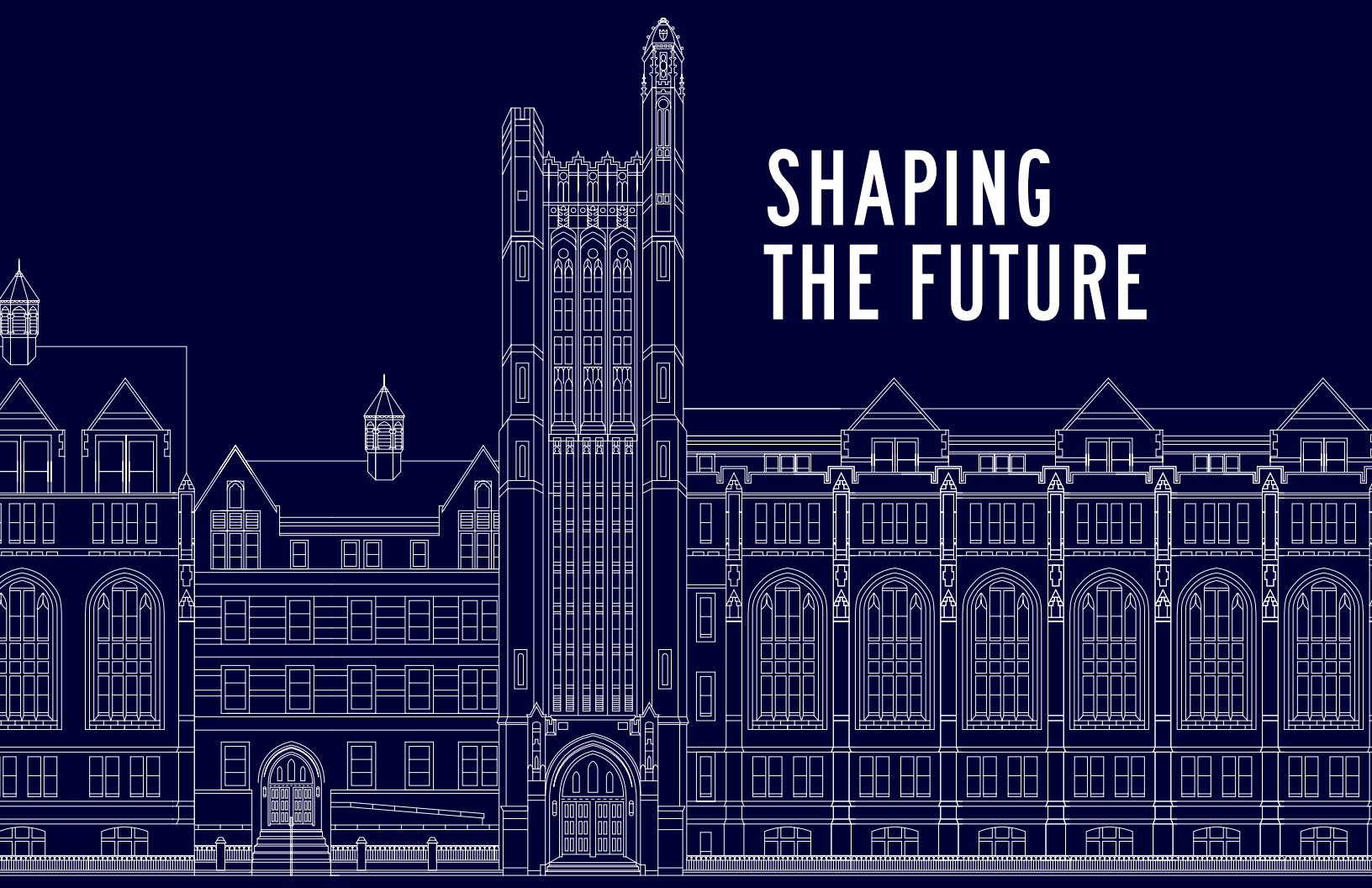

SHAPING
THE FUTURE

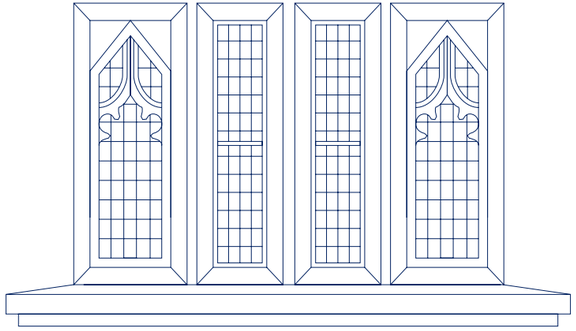
THE STORY

Teachers College, Columbia University.

It started in 1880 when Grace Hoadley Dodge established a school in New York City for underserved immigrant women to promote the development of practical skills. Over time, TC evolved into a new type of institution, transforming the field of teacher education and eventually expanding its offerings to encompass world-class programs in health and psychology.

In the nearly 140 years since, TC has been a leader at the intersection of research, practice, and innovation — shaping the future of society while advancing the public good. Today, this premier graduate school enrolls more than 5,300 students in more than 100 programs. And all along, the driving motivation has remained constant: to prepare talented professionals and conduct groundbreaking research that addresses society's vital concerns.

What that looks like. Psychologists explore resilience in veterans and discover innovative approaches to conflict resolution. Health educators develop antidotes to the national gun violence epidemic. Teacher educators address how schools will be transformed in the latter part of the 21st century. Organizational psychologists develop future corporate leaders. And so much more.



THE CONTEXT

When TC was established, the world was confronting economic, social, political, and technological challenges. Certainly, much has changed since then, yet complex issues will always remain. Because TC is an institution at the apex of education, it is our responsibility to lead the way with knowledge and understanding…at this moment and into the future.

We are also facing an explosion of mental health crises among young people, a profound shift in classroom practices due to AI and emerging technologies, and drastic shortages of teachers and other professionals focused on children and their needs. **This fact is undeniable: the mission of Teachers College is timelier and more critical than ever.**

"TC's world-class reputation arose from the revolutionary approaches and global perspective of John Dewey and other visionaries. We continue to honor that legacy through the College's abiding commitment to educate students dedicated to pursuing careers that benefit others."

– THOMAS BAILEY
PRESIDENT



THE TRANSFORMATIVE POWER OF SUPPORT

It has always been true. Our supporters play an essential role in sustaining TC's prominence, so that the College can pursue bold initiatives and ambitious projects in response to issues of the day. That support also allows generations of promising students to access a superb graduate education and thrive in their careers.

What drives TC's momentum?

Our Students – Scholarships ensure that the College can offer applicants the resources they need to choose the stellar education TC provides. These resources also enhance access to internships, residencies, emergency funds, and other programs that are needed along the way.

Our Faculty – TC's world-class faculty and interdisciplinary research change lives. Support fuels the discoveries and teaching that define and enrich the College.

Our Campus – TC's historic and dynamic campus in the heart of New York City is a vital dimension of the College's ethos. Ongoing renewal and advancement are essential.

The Public Good – Launched in 2024 by President Bailey, the Public Good Initiative drives multidisciplinary projects, research, and teaching that advance work at the intersection of theory and practice.



FOR OUR STUDENTS

Scholarships are the Foundation of Success

Students come to Teachers College with a deep resolve to grow, question, and make the world a better place…in an environment where ideas are challenged, concepts are tested, and innovations emerge.

How do we make this happen?

Generous scholarships play a pivotal role, both in getting students to TC and helping them succeed.

Students drawn to careers in education, psychology, and health must be able to pursue these fields without the distraction of impending student debt. And in the course of their graduate school education, they also must be able to navigate a smooth pathway to a future career. Experiences outside the classroom, including internships and residencies, robust student services, career and academic advising, and emergency funds give them the opportunity to thrive.

Above all, these funds ensure that TC's world-class graduate programs are fully accessible and affordable.



FOR OUR FACULTY

World-Class Teaching and Breakthrough Research

Stellar faculty are at the heart of what makes Teachers College a driver of innovation in education, psychology, and health. As teachers, they lay the groundwork for student success, and as researchers, they apply their expertise to projects and initiatives in TC centers, institutes, and labs.

The caliber and reputation of TC's faculty inspire students to engage in lives of service, and the advances they spark across a range of disciplines — from psychology to organizational behavior — have a global impact on professional practice. Support for named professorships, which cements the institution's ability to attract and retain world-class thinkers, teachers, and leaders, is essential for enhancing the College, now and over the long term. And investments in the research enterprise keep TC on the frontlines of innovation by advancing bold experimentation and collaboration.

Supporting our faculty means supporting a multidisciplinary approach, across fields, to tackle the world's most challenging problems.



FOR OUR CAMPUS

Preserving and Enhancing this Historic Center of Learning

Architecturally significant buildings. An extraordinary physical asset. An interconnected hub of learning in the heart of New York City.

The Teachers College campus has been located in Morningside Heights since 1893. And in the decades since, the TC community has benefited from facilities that promote a strong, positive sense of place for students, faculty, and alumni. The College's capacity to deliver on its mission and attract top-tier students from around the world is strengthened by on-campus spaces that inspire reflection and foster collaboration.

Of course, there are many opportunities to enhance TC's campus, and we want to grab them. From infrastructure investments in sophisticated technologies that support academic excellence to the revitalization of Milbank Chapel, which features historically significant architecture and artwork and serves as a convening space, the time is now.



FOR THE PUBLIC GOOD

Support Multidisciplinary Innovation at TC

In 2024, TC President Thomas Bailey launched The Public Good Initiative. The goal? To create multidisciplinary projects, research, and curricula focused on four important areas: the Future of Teacher Education, Mental Health and Wellness, Digital Innovation, and Sustainable Futures.

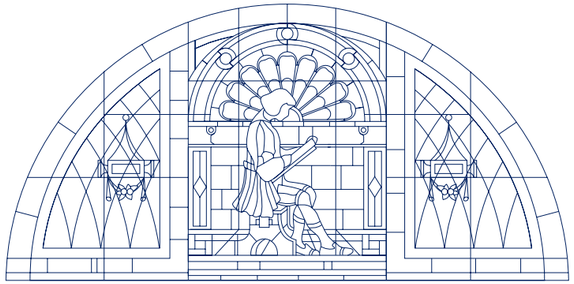
Through the Initiative, the College is uniquely positioned to tackle consequential questions, in the fields of education, health, and psychology. Questions such as…

The Future of Teacher Education – How can teacher education programs respond to evolving student demographics and extensive teacher shortages?

Mental Health and Wellness – What strategies and platforms can address the mental health crises gripping young people worldwide? How can TC serve as a destination for mental health counselors facing the needs of their schools and communities?

Digital Innovation – How will the explosion of AI impact teacher education? What can TC do to address this critical juncture for the digital future of education?

Sustainable Futures – How are global efforts to increase sustainability practices impacting learning? What innovative efforts will prepare and empower future generations to respond to the multiple reverberations of climate change?





SPARKING TRUE CHANGE

Teachers College makes it happen.

An eighth-grade teacher unlocks the mysteries of quadratic equations. A school psychologist guides a student through a major challenge. A school district implements robust sustainability practices. School leaders open innovative new schools in Queens. An arts educator creates programming for a leading Chinese museum.

Every day, the work of Teachers College impacts the defining issues of our time. TC's graduates, research initiatives, and pedagogical practices improve lives, strengthen systems of education, benefit great institutions of learning and culture, and promote effective policies that reflect the needs of children and society.

In a time characterized and often immobilized by uncertainty, the College forges ahead with a strong sense of optimism and a promise. The TC community of students, faculty, alumni, and partners strives to shape a better world, and we ask you...



"...seeing the human behind the scholar, and understanding that the human is the scholar, is an essential pedagogical act. Grace Dodge understood that. She believed in the transformative power of education to uplift the whole person. She understood that education must, first and foremost, be humanizing. At Teachers College, we strive to live out that truth every day."

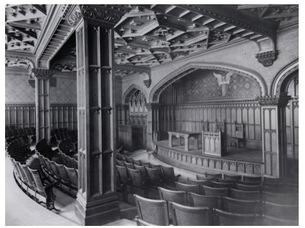
– VICTORIA DUMAS
ED.D. CANDIDATE

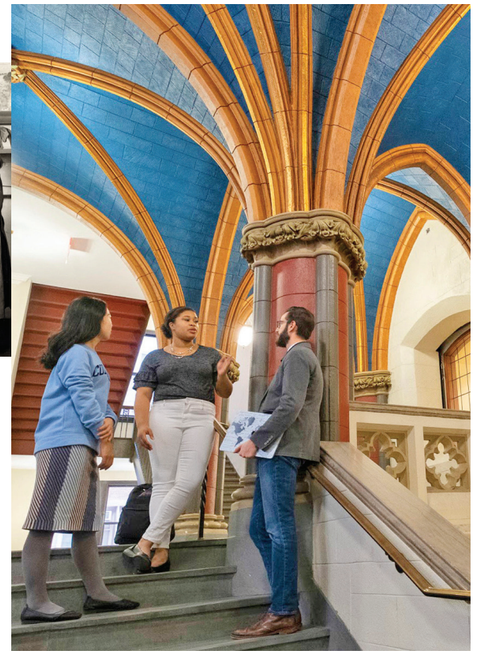
THEN: GROUNDBREAKING SCHOLARS

From the start, TC faculty have been pivotal in promoting historic advancements in education, health, and psychology.

- John Dewey (1859-1952) was a progressive thought leader in the emerging field of teacher education.
- Morton Deutsch (1920-2017) was a renowned social psychologist and a pioneer in conflict resolution, cooperative learning, and social justice.
- Edmund W. Gordon (b. 1921) (Ed.D. '57) was a lead designer of Head Start and an early champion of educational programs, such as summer learning.
- Maxine Greene (1917-2014) was an educational philosopher who advanced the concept of "wide-awakeness," a way of reflecting on our place in the world.
- Joan Dye Gussow (1928-2025) (Ed.D. '75, M.Ed. '74) conducted landmark research into the effects of food and nutrition on child development.







NOW: TRAILBLAZING WORK

Today's faculty are engaged in innovative research on issues that drive the evolution of society.

- George Bonnano, Professor of Clinical Psychology, is known for pioneering research on human resilience in the face of loss and potential trauma.
- Chris Emdin, Professor of Science Education & Maxine Greene Chair for Distinguished Contributions to Education, prepares teachers for STEM classrooms and conducts research in urban science education.
- David Hanson, John L & Sue Ann Weinberg Professor in Historical & Philosophical Foundations of Education, is known for his influential work in the philosophy of education and the moral purpose of teaching.
- Sonali Rajan, Professor of Health Promotion and Education, is an expert on school violence prevention and founding president of the Research Society for the Prevention of Firearm-Related Harms.
- Gita Steiner-Khamsi, William Heard Kilpatrick Professor of Comparative Education, is one of the world's most cited experts in global education policy.



OPPORTUNITIES FOR SUPPORT AT TEACHERS COLLEGE

With generous support, Teachers College responds to issues of the day, across the disciplines of education, psychology, and health. Your contributions will have a lasting impact — assisting students as they access a superb graduate education and pursue their passions, empowering faculty to research and innovate, enhancing the historic campus, and strengthening signature initiatives.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarships ensure that the next generation of students are able to pursue their graduate studies free of financial burden, so that they can focus on learning, research, and leadership. Funding opportunities in your own name or in honor of someone special.

- Named Full Fellowship (Endowed): tuition, fees, and living expenses: $1.7 million
- Named Scholarship (Endowed): $100,000 and above
- Named Annual Scholarship: $10,000–$25,000 annually

STUDENT PATHWAYS

Contributions provide essential support for students, from career development to emergency assistance, which will help them thrive on campus and pursue successful careers. Possibilities for support, ranging from $10,000 spendable to $100,000 and above endowed include:

- Emergency Assistance: for students facing financial hardship.
- Career Development: internships, residencies, and professional advising.
- Student Resources: advising, skill-building, and student-parent programs
- Global Experience: international study, research or fieldwork.

FACULTY & RESEARCH

Support for faculty and faculty research helps Teachers College build on its legacy of institutional greatness by attracting and retaining leading scholars and their cutting-edge discoveries and innovations.

- Endowed Named Professorship: $4 million
- Endowed Visiting Professorship: $1 million
- Endowed Research Fund: $100,000 and above
- Annual Faculty & Research Support (Spendable): $25,000 and above
- Named Research Center: Amount upon request

CAMPUS ENHANCEMENT

Donor support for the historic campus enhances every aspect of academic and social life at Teachers College. Current naming opportunities include:

- Theater in Milbank Chapel: $5 million
- Academic Building 528: Amount upon request
- Classroom or Lecture Hall: $250,000–$500,000
- Research or Lab Space: $250,000–$1 million
- Common or Study Area: $100,000–$250,000

PUBLIC GOOD INITIATIVE

The Public Good Initiative advances interdisciplinary solutions that improve communities, empower students, and support faculty research across four key areas — Teacher Education, Mental Health & Wellness, Digital Innovation, and Sustainability. The initiative encourages strategic collaboration at the intersections of these areas, exploring how solutions in one domain can inform and enhance the others and impact the public good.

- Public Good Initiative Fund (Endowed): $1 million and above
- Public Good Initiative Fund (Spendable): $100,000 and above
- Additional opportunities available upon request

Teachers College
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
525 West 120th Street | New York, NY 10027
(212) 678-3231 | institutionaladvancement@tc.columbia.edu

