BARRETT,
THE HONORS COLLEGE
A PUBLIC COLLEGE OF SCHOLARS

Barrett is the honors college at Arizona State University. Its signature quality is what we call “The Best of Both Worlds.” It is a caring, supportive community of academically motivated undergraduate students in all the ways characteristic of a top liberal arts college, but it is found in the middle of, and uses all the resources of, a highly ranked Research 1 university. So Barrett students have small classes, faculty advisers, and a four-year residential community of aspirational peers, but they also complete their required undergraduate theses and creative projects with faculty who are Nobel Prize winners, who play in the Phoenix Symphony, or who designed the Mars Rovers.

A 2015 *New York Times* op-ed piece called Barrett the “gold standard” in honors education. We call it “a public college of scholars,” because it is a part of a large public research university but also has its own residential campuses, complete with dining centers, study and social lounges, faculty and advising offices, writing centers, and classrooms designed specifically for honors seminar classes of 25 or fewer students.

Barrett offers an honors education that reflects the New American University: we provide access to a diverse group of gifted students across all four ASU campuses, offering them opportunities to not only excel in the classroom but also impact their communities—and the world—in transformative ways. Barrett students travel abroad, publish poetry, and meet with accomplished leaders, such as former U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O’Connor and Rhodes Lecturer-in-Residence and former CNN anchor Aaron Brown. They are able to take advantage of unique undergraduate research and internship opportunities, working in the governor’s office, on Wall Street, at the Mayo clinic, and with professors in ASU’s Biodesign Institute on the latest developments in nanotechnology. And Barrett has helped elevate academic standards for the entire university: many of ASU’s student leaders and academic award winners are Barrett students.

- It is an elite college with a major research university right outside its gates.
- It is an Ivy with four times the choice of majors and concentrations.
- It is Barrett, and it can only be found at ASU.
Barrett, the Honors College, is made up of over 6,800 students.

42% of Barrett students are from underrepresented backgrounds.
THE BARRETT STORY

SINCE ITS FOUNDING IN 1988, BARRETT’S GOAL HAS BEEN TO PROVIDE A TOP UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION FOR BRIGHT AND MOTIVATED STUDENTS.

Multiple examples point to our success. Barrett’s construction of its own honors campus at Tempe has been a model for residential honors colleges at more than 10 other public universities. We are ranked the number one honors college and honors program in the nation by John Willingham in *A Review of 50 Public University Honors Programs.*

Barrett is now ready for the next phase. Our goal is for each Barrett student to have a global viewpoint and understanding that comes from using leading-edge technology and experiencing global classrooms, internships, and research opportunities. Barrett graduates will be prepared to excel in the face of new global challenges.

“OUR PURPOSE IS TO PROMOTE AND ENABLE THE VERY BEST EDUCATION POSSIBLE FOR INTELLECTUALLY ENGAGED STUDENTS FROM ARIZONA, FROM AMERICA, AND FROM THE WORLD.”

—Mark Jacobs, *Vice Provost and Dean*
CAMPAIGN ASU 2020

CAMPAIGN ASU 2020 WILL ALLOW US TO ACCOMPLISH THE NEXT PHASE. WITH CAMPAIGN INVESTMENT, WE WILL BUILD AND STRENGTHEN THE FACULTY AND STAFF TO ENSURE THAT ALL HONORS STUDENTS HAVE A FOUR-YEAR HONORS RESIDENTIAL EXPERIENCE ALONG WITH TOP QUALITY ACADEMIC AND CO-CURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES.

STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

Barrett students are currently supported by 25 different donor-funded scholarships and grant funds. Many of these are not endowed, meaning that students may not be able to count on that support for more than one year. Year after year, the number of students who apply for these funds far outweighs the grants we are able to make.

If we are to attract the nation’s top students, regardless of their families’ finances, we must guarantee more scholarships and grants. Currently, 20 percent of Barrett students qualify for Pell Grants, and 30 percent more—despite having merit scholarships from ASU—also have need-based aid. These Barrett students can find themselves unable to take part in enriching out-of-classroom experiences. The cost of Summer Study Abroad, for example, may prevent them from participating, and they may not be able to forgo income from off-campus work to complete their thesis research with faculty.

Barrett aspires to expand funding for low-income students for traditional scholarships as well as research and study-abroad grants. Through Campaign ASU 2020, we will raise funds to increase the total number of scholarships and grants for these purposes, establishing an increased level of support for our students.
CARLYN HARRIS, a Barrett Honors College junior majoring in microbiology and global health, traveled the world during the summer of 2016—literally—but it was no pleasure cruise. Recipient of the Circumnavigators Club Grant, Harris spent four months researching societal and cultural influences on antibiotic consumption and resistance in Guatemala, Spain, the Netherlands, India, South Africa, and New Zealand.

“I was completely amazed and humbled to receive the grant,” Harris says. “I am beyond grateful. Putting together the proposal and establishing contacts around the world took a lot of work, but I’m thrilled to travel to new places and learn from experts in microbiology and public health fields.”

She said her ultimate goal in assessing sociocultural ties to public health knowledge of antibiotic resistance and consumption is to develop new educational initiatives and awareness campaigns.

Harris is no stranger to international travel. In summer 2015, she was a research assistant in the ASU Global Health Medical Anthropology Field School in Guatemala, where she helped with the investigation of maternal health care systems and family size in rural areas of that country.

“Culture plays an important role in how societies interact with the health care system and what public health information they receive,” she says. “For my Circumnavigators Club Grant, I decided to study cultural influences on public health knowledge regarding antibiotic resistance and consumption, because antibiotic resistance is a current global issue threatening the treatment of serious bacterial infections. This is largely because communities are overusing and misusing these ‘miracle’ drugs, and many do not understand how this can influence resistance.”
Preparing our student leaders to be effective global citizens is imperative for pioneering new frontiers of knowledge and inventing solutions to global challenges. At Barrett, we want to take the best students in the world and prepare them to lead the world. Campaign support will allow us to expand access to educational travel and internships that expose students to new cultures and languages as well as to new environments and ecosystems. They will be taught by high profile corporate, government, and nonprofit leaders from around the world in our new Global Fellows program for visiting dignitaries. These experiences will forever change students’ outlooks, heightening their understanding of the world around them.

Barrett has experienced a six-fold growth in faculty since its founding. The College currently has 42 full-time faculty fellows dedicated to honors and works with another 1,800 faculty members across the university, offering our students a better than 4:1 student-faculty ratio. Within this distinguished group are Nobel Laureates and members of the National Academy of Science, the National Academy of Engineering, and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. They are Fulbright, Ford, and Guggenheim Fellows. Honors students work with these gifted teachers, collaborating on research, creative projects, honors enrichment work in courses and honors theses.

Through Campaign ASU 2020, alumni and friends can strengthen support for these outstanding professionals in two significant ways. First, we seek to increase the amount of professional development funds available to honors faculty—a move that will ensure they stay at the leading edge of their disciplines. Second, a campaign investment can help establish a visiting honors faculty program for professors from within ASU as well as outside the institution. This program will add to the already rich body of faculty who educate and mentor our students.
Chemical engineering major and Barrett student Christopher Balzer was named a Goldwater Scholar—a prestigious scholarship that recognizes excellence in science, math, and engineering—in the spring of 2016. He credits Barrett as critical to his success.

“The academic atmosphere of living and working at Barrett, the Honors College, elevated my performance in my classes and led me to get involved in research in the first few weeks of my freshman year,” says Balzer. “Having other researchers pouring time and experience into my life gives me insight that I wouldn’t have otherwise.”

The campaign presents a unique opportunity for Barrett to dream big: we envision creating an Honors Student Success Center on the Tempe campus. This first-of-its-kind-in-the-nation honors college facility would bring together all the services that help our students excel: professional and career advising, internships, academic advising, the writing center, and the national scholarship office. We also anticipate that the Academic Center would house seminar rooms equipped with technologies that enable students to push the boundaries of learning far beyond our campus. Such ventures could allow Barrett students to join classes with honors students from around the world, deliver papers and attend virtual meetings internationally, or tap into a GoPro camera feed to take part remotely in research with such institutions as the Smithsonian.

The Honors Student Success Center would serve as a showcase for the best-of-the-best students and faculty at ASU and ensure that the college remains the “gold standard” in the top learning environment of tomorrow.
Over the last decade, Barrett, the Honors College, has grown to encompass that perfect combination of traits that most college students and their parents seek: the soul of a great residential college, the opportunities of an expansive research university, and the record—in students’ admittance into top law, medicine, and graduate programs, and in their success in national scholarship competitions—of any elite private school.

Throughout ASU’s history, the spirit and generosity of donors have reflected the strong belief in higher education’s contributions to our economy, our communities, and our society. This campaign offers an opportunity for alumni, parents, and friends to make sure the best and the brightest students come to ASU and thrive. Whether targeted at scholarships or faculty, technology or programs, campaign support will help ASU create a richer, more vibrant community of discovery and learning for the nation’s most promising students.

Fulbright recipients in 2015, which places ASU #5 among all colleges and universities in the nation.
With your generous support, Arizona State University has reinvented the public research university. We are both more inclusive and more accomplished than ever, with ASU students and faculty earning unprecedented levels of recognition for their achievements. Our graduates leave here as master learners who are capable of rising to meet any new and unfamiliar challenge. ASU students, faculty, and graduates also are firmly rooted in their communities and committed to advancing the common good. Together, we have created a model for other universities to follow. Your support during Campaign ASU 2020 will help us break more new ground by raising $1.5 billion to propel our vision for higher education into the next decade and beyond.

**ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY** is a comprehensive public research university, measured not by whom we exclude, but rather by whom we include and how they succeed; advancing research and discovery of public value; and assuming fundamental responsibility for the economic, social, cultural and overall health of the communities it serves.