A great education begins with great educators: inspiring teachers and mentors who want to make a difference in the lives of K-State engineering students and in the larger world. Decades after graduation, our alumni still remember the dedicated professors who helped them understand a difficult subject, mentored them as part of a student design team experience, or helped them find a path to personal and professional success. Those life-changing conversations continue to take place at the College of Engineering every day as our faculty members share their passion for engineering and their commitment to teaching and mentoring our students.

Specifically, our faculty are leading the way in addressing urgent national and global issues, from homeland security to sustainable energy, and their achievements are critical to our aspiration to be a top 50 public research university by 2025. These faculty members bring extraordinary insight and enthusiasm to our classrooms while mentoring and preparing the next generation of engineering leaders. However, many of our most dynamic faculty members would not be at K-State today without philanthropic support.

Faculty development is a top priority of Innovation and Inspiration: The $1.4 billion campaign for K-State. With help from alumni and friends like you, we can recruit and retain the very best faculty — leaders who will shape our shared future while helping our students discover their own potential to succeed.
CORNERSTONE TEACHING SCHOLARS PROGRAM

The Cornerstone Teaching Scholars Program fosters exemplary undergraduate teaching skills and commitment to excellence in fundamental engineering courses. Specifically, the Cornerstone Teaching Scholars Program encourages the college’s best teaching faculty members to teach our most fundamental courses in the sophomore and junior years. This will improve student retention and graduation rates by ensuring students obtain the best possible learning experience in the formative stages.

Implementation: Based on a previous record of outstanding teaching accomplishments, faculty members are nominated by their department head for teaching scholar positions in each of the departments throughout the college. Each Cornerstone Teaching Scholar is given a three-year appointment with a salary increase and discretionary funds to support instruction of at least two fundamental engineering courses each year. Courses are closely reviewed to achieve academic excellence and high student interest. Funding has been contributed to launch the program, but substantial new resources are needed to expand it.

CREATIVE INQUIRY MENTOR PROGRAM

Creative inquiry is the College of Engineering’s highly successful blend of engineering principles and practice. Faculty mentors lead teams of undergraduate students in their search for innovative solutions to problems with challenging technical, economic and social components. Each year, our faculty mentor hundreds of students who join creative inquiry teams that compete in regional, national and international events on topics ranging from wind power to unmanned aircraft. Participation on creative inquiry teams gives our students a competitive edge in the job market while also supporting the college’s visionary plan and K-State’s 2025 goal to enhance the student experience.

Implementation: Based on a previous record of outstanding creative inquiry mentoring accomplishments, faculty members are nominated by their department head for creative inquiry mentor positions in each of the departments throughout the college. Each creative inquiry mentor is given a three-year appointment with a salary increase and discretionary funds to support the mentoring of a creative inquiry team or project each year. Creative inquiry accomplishments are closely reviewed to achieve academic excellence and high student interest. Funding has been contributed to launch the program, but substantial new resources are needed to expand it.
KEYSTONE RESEARCH SCHOLARS PROGRAM

The reputation of a great university is amplified by the research impact of its faculty. A Keystone Research Scholar title is bestowed upon a faculty member who has made outstanding research contributions that address urgent national and global issues. This type of named position allows K-State to recruit and retain dynamic scholars who are in the early stages of their career, yet are in high demand at all universities throughout the entire nation. By providing targeted funding for groundbreaking exploration and inquiry, the Keystone Research Scholars Program enables talented, early-career faculty members to catapult their intellectual activities to higher levels of achievement.

Implementation: Based on a previous record of outstanding research accomplishments, faculty members are nominated by their department head for research scholar positions in each of the departments throughout the college. Each Keystone Research Scholar is given a three-year appointment with a salary increase and discretionary funds to support travel, specialized equipment, and/or additional graduate students to join their research team. The accomplishments of a research scholar are closely reviewed to ensure that the holder maintains academic excellence and high student interest.

ENDOWED PROFESSORSHIPS AND CHAIRS

An endowed professorship or chair is bestowed upon faculty members who have made extraordinary contributions to research and teaching. These types of endowed positions enable K-State to offer competitive compensation packages in recruiting and retaining scholars who are in high demand around the country and the world. The scholars who hold endowed professorships represent the most distinguished faculty members of their generation, while the endowed chair represents the highest honor K-State can confer on a prominent faculty member. By providing dedicated resources for innovative research and teaching opportunities, endowed professorships and chairs enable the most gifted faculty members to excel in their scholarly activities.

Implementation: Based on a previous record of outstanding research and teaching accomplishments, faculty members are nominated by their department head for endowed positions in each of the departments throughout the college. A holder of an endowed professorship or chair is given a five-year, renewable appointment with a salary increase and discretionary funds to support professional travel, the purchase of specialized equipment, or to fund additional graduate students as part of their research team. The accomplishments of an endowed professorship or chair are closely reviewed to ensure that the holder maintains academic excellence and high student interest. Currently, the College of Engineering has 30 endowed professorships and chairs. To ensure that we achieve our goals, we seek to increase this number to 50 by 2025.
Naming opportunities

Your gift will ensure that great educators will continue to make a difference in the lives of K-State engineering students in the following ways:

NAMING OF A DEPARTMENTAL CORNERSTONE TEACHING SCHOLAR
Your gift to name a teaching scholar will allow us to extend the program into more courses.

- Expendable gift of $10,000/yr. for three years or
- Endowment gift of $250,000, payable through pledge of up to five years

NAMING OF A DEPARTMENTAL CREATIVE INQUIRY MENTOR
Your gift to name a creative inquiry mentor will allow us to include more faculty in the program.

- Expendable gift of $10,000/yr. for three years or
- Endowment gift of $250,000, payable through pledge of up to five years

NAMING OF A DEPARTMENTAL KEYSTONE RESEARCH SCHOLAR
Your gift to name a research scholar will allow us to recruit and retain dynamic scholars in the early stages of their career.

- Expendable gift of $10,000/yr. for three years or
- Endowment gift of $250,000, payable through pledge of up to five years

NAMING OF AN ENDOWED PROFESSORSHIP
Your gift to name an endowed professorship will allow us to recruit and retain outstanding faculty.

- Endowment gift of $1 million, payable through pledge of up to five years

NAMING OF AN ENDOWED CHAIR
Your gift to name an endowed chair will allow us to recruit and retain prominent faculty.

- Endowment gift of $2 million, payable through pledge of up to five years

Impact of philanthropy

Thank you for considering an investment in competitive recruitment of excellent faculty, and rewarding them at a level that keeps them at K-State. Your investment in the dedicated faculty who educate K-State engineering students in and out of the classroom will guarantee our strong teaching tradition for generations to come.