



2023

# Wofford College President's Report

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COMMITMENT TO PLACE







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## Dear friends and colleagues:

Wofford College creates an environment in which all aspects of college life — academics, athletics, residence life and cocurricular programming — work in concert to prepare students for life after Wofford. It's a community characterized by positive interpersonal relationships, support and encouragement, and there's no question that people are central to creating the community ethos that remains a hallmark of the Wofford experience. To become extraordinary citizens and lifelong learners, however, students need room to discover, debate and engage with ideas, and physical, intellectual and virtual spaces play a vital role in making these interactions possible.

Wofford supporters and leaders understand that a beautiful and functional campus makes an incredible difference when it comes to turning campus visits into applications. Wofford College, therefore, has built a commitment to student growth and development into each new and renovated building — more than a dozen over the past decade. While building and construction projects require financial resources, the cost of not maintaining the facilities in which students will live and learn for four years is staggering. Enrollment success, student retention, safety, sustainability and even graduation rates all have been linked to the appearance and upkeep of the physical campus.

The following report focuses on the college's commitment to place — the campus, the community in which we are located, the intellectual environment and even the virtual spaces in which students find inspiration and enjoyment. The Wofford campus provides a space for deep thinking, comfort, energy, belonging and vision, and I invite you to come visit to discover for yourself the ways in which student success is rooted at Wofford College.



**DR. NAYEF H. SAMHAT**  
11th president of Wofford College



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## WOFFORD COLLEGE

**Founded in 1854.**  
**4-year residential liberal arts college.**  
**Located in Spartanburg, South Carolina.**

**1,875**

undergraduates.

**78**

majors, minors  
and programs.

**12:1**

student-to-faculty ratio.

**79%**

4-year graduation rate.

**1 in 5**

students is an NCAA  
Division I student-athlete.

**99%**

of students receive some  
form of financial assistance.

**98%**

positive career  
outcomes within 6  
months of graduation.

**90%**

of students live  
on campus all 4 years.

Phi Beta Kappa chartered  
**in 1941.**



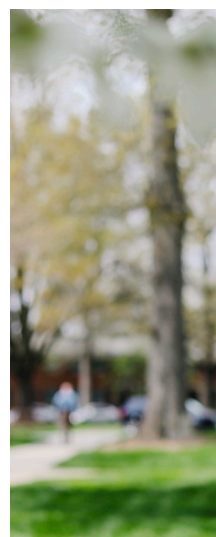
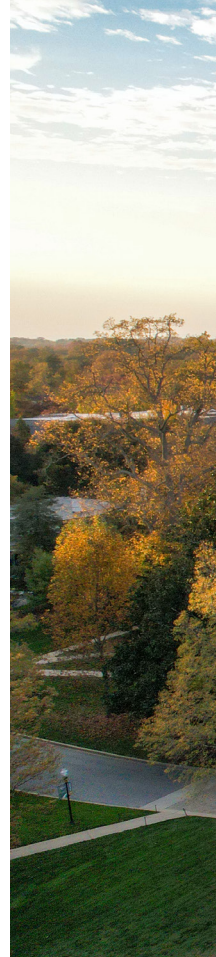
# First impressions matter

First impressions matter, which is why decades ago the late Roger Milliken, a member of the Wofford College Board of Trustees, introduced Wofford to renowned horticulturalists Dr. Michael Dirr and Dr. Allan Armitage. The result was a new, welcoming and attractive entrance to the campus, as well as a visionary land and building management plan, which has been expanded and updated for today. Wofford's mission and core values are evident in the attention to the physical campus.

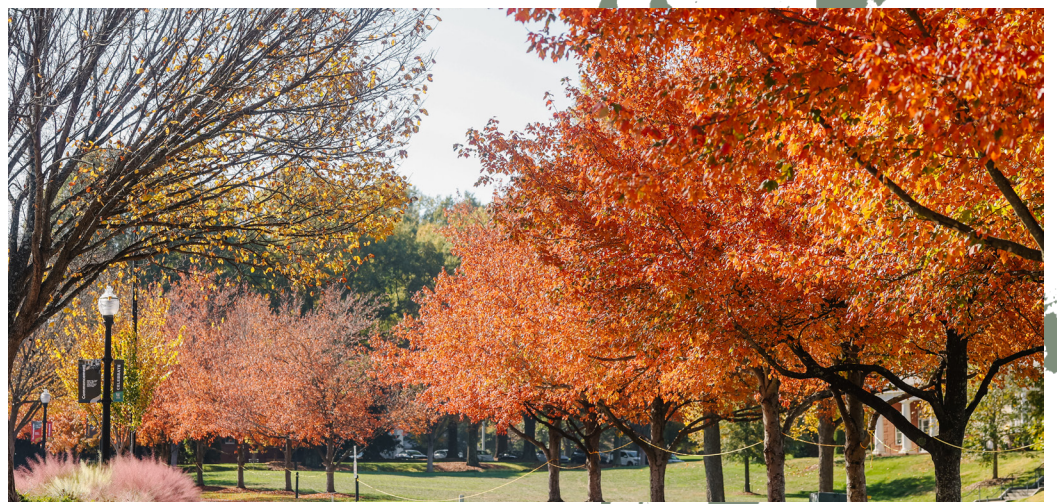
## FAST FACTS

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- + The college's 180-acre campus is an arboretum.
- + More than 4,000 trees have been planted on campus over the past decade.
- + More than 65% of students say that the campus tour positively influenced their decision to enroll at Wofford College.















# Built for student success

A decade ago, the college launched a strategic vision process that led to the construction of the Rosalind Sallenger Richardson Center for the Arts, the Stewart H. Johnson Greek Village, Jerry Richardson Indoor Stadium, the Chandler Center for Environmental Studies, Milliken House, Jerome Johnson Richardson Hall and Hope Field, a new softball complex. According to the vision document, “Extraordinary citizens and lifelong learners emerge organically — and a great college provides the right conditions for that organic process to occur. Students must have room to create and explore in creative physical, intellectual and virtual spaces.”

## FAST FACTS

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- + All new construction has been donor-funded.
- + The Chandler Center for Environmental Studies has won several prestigious awards for green construction and sustainability.
- + The Rosalind Sallenger Richardson Center for the Arts has been recognized for design, project management and excellence in construction.



# Focused on improvement

Focusing time, energy and resources on the learning environment shows students and their families that Wofford's leadership grasps the importance of the residential liberal arts experience. Over the past decade, the college has completed renovations and substantial capital improvements to Greene and Marsh residence halls as well as the Sandor Teszler Library, creating an academic commons that serves the entire community. The college has consolidated high-impact programs — the Career Center, International Programs, Research and Community-Based Learning — in the Mungo Exchange within the Michael S. Brown Village Center. The Burwell Building, the college's main dining hall, is now fully renovated as well as the Mungo Student Center, the Richardson Physical Activities Building, the Blackwell-Quattlebaum Center for Wellness and Counseling Services, the Reeves Tennis Center and the old Wofford College Bookstore, which is a home for student publications and serves as a gathering and study space for students.

## FAST FACTS

- + The Wellness Center renovation updates one of the college's original buildings, with the infrastructure dating back to 1854.
- + Maintaining the college's residence halls is particularly important because more than 90% of students live on campus all four years.







COMMITMENT TO PLACE











# Part of the greater community

Within walking distance of downtown Spartanburg, Wofford College was founded in 1854 on the city's northern border, and the college and town have developed together. Today, the college has two satellite locations in Spartanburg. From the Goodall Environmental Studies Center in Glendale and the Milliken House in the Northside neighborhood, Wofford students spend time as part of the academic program interning and learning about Spartanburg's history, demographics, resources, challenges and opportunities.

## FAST FACTS

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- + In October 2023, Southern Living Magazine listed Wofford College and Spartanburg among “The South’s Most Charming Colleges in Small Towns.”
- + During 2022, Wofford students and faculty helped Spartanburg secure a \$1 million grant by sharing the results of their research on poverty, crime and property.
- + The college is ranked nationally for its supportive alumni network, which, in addition to financial support, provides internships, jobs and mentoring for Wofford students.

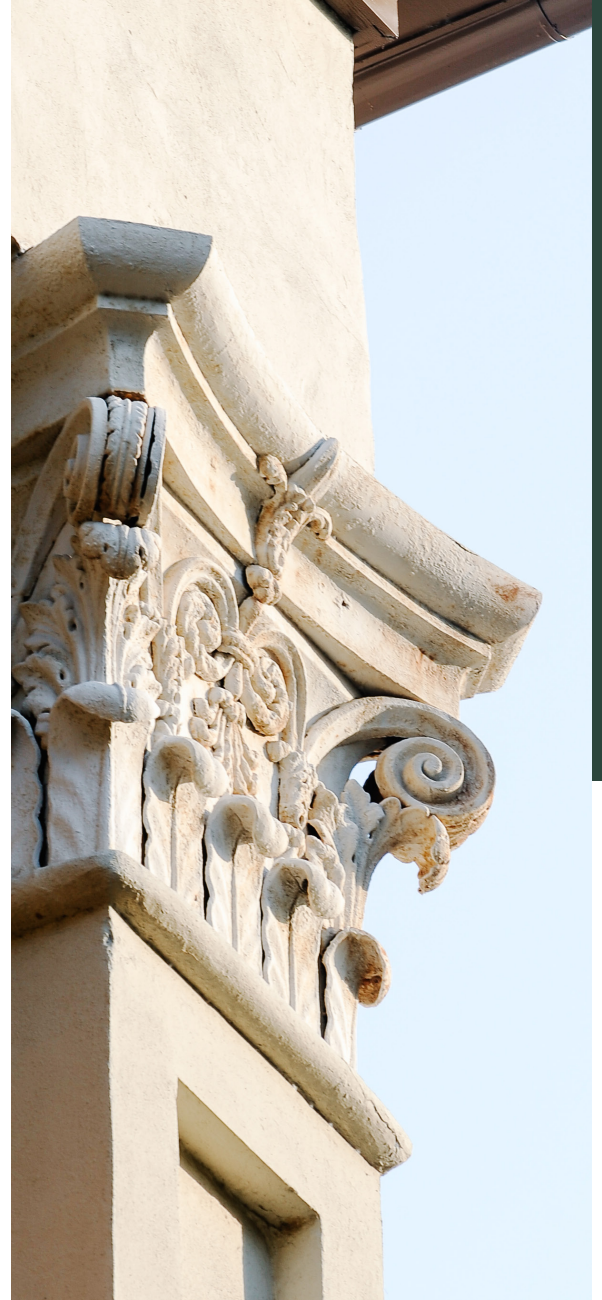




# From this foundation

Centuries before Wofford was founded and the first American colleges adopted the Oxford-Cambridge model, European educators realized the educational value of students living and learning together in the same community. Wofford's Main Building was designed with this in mind to include student and professor dormitories, a library, classrooms, study rooms, a museum and natural science laboratory, literary society rooms and a chapel. Over time, the college expanded around "Old Main" as an academic village, ensuring the health, safety and scholastic success of the students who call Wofford home.





### FAST FACTS

- + Wofford College is one of a handful of colleges and universities that remains located on its original campus.
- + Over the college's almost 170-year history, every Wofford student has taken a class in Main Building.









# Intellectual and virtual spaces

During the fall semester, Wofford College brought speakers with varying political, social and academic positions to campus: a Pulitzer nominee author, an expert on the history of hip-hop, the former U.S. ambassador to Switzerland, a Republican candidate for president of the United States and a Democratic United States senator. Creating civil, respectful, intellectual spaces for these conversations is part of the college's mission. The college — with the Sandor Teszler Library as the hub — also includes virtual spaces where students learn using the latest technology and access to a world of information.

## FAST FACTS

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- + An Artificial Intelligence Working Group, comprised of faculty, staff and students, is formulating an innovative response to the widespread impact of Generative AI.
- + George Washington Carver, one of the most prominent Black scientists, educators and inventors of the early 20th century, spoke at Wofford in December 1923. Other past speakers have ranged from past U.S. presidents and Irish poets to political activists and entrepreneurs.



# FROM HERE TO THERE

MEET SOME GRADUATES OF THE CLASS OF 2023

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



## **NICK ACKARD**

Finance and humanities graduate; member of the marketing and sales team for Omatic, a Charleston, S.C.-based tech company.



## **GIBSON DOWD**

Psychology, sociology and anthropology and neuroscience graduate; Ph.D. student in the drug discovery and experimental therapeutics program at the University of Iowa's College of Pharmacy.



## **ISAIAH FRANCO**

International affairs and Spanish graduate; master's degree student in environmental social sciences at The Ohio State University.



## **LILLY HATTON**

Biology graduate; first-year medical student at the Indiana University School of Medicine.



More than 98% of graduates from 2023 have reported a positive career outcome within six months after graduation. These students made the most of the physical, virtual and intellectual spaces created at Wofford College and are now making an impact on the places where they live and work.



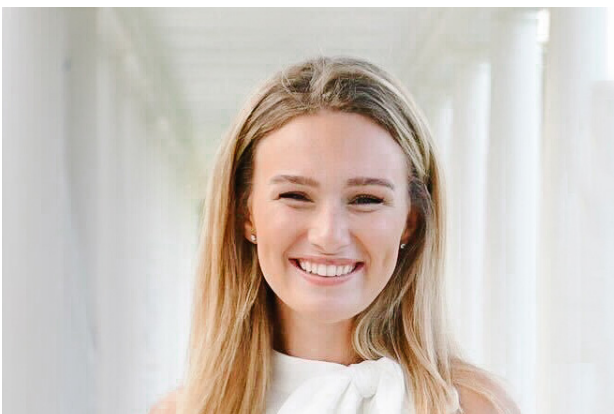
**MCKENZIE NORMAN**

Government graduate; second lieutenant in the U.S. Army serving on active duty at Ft. Bliss, Texas.



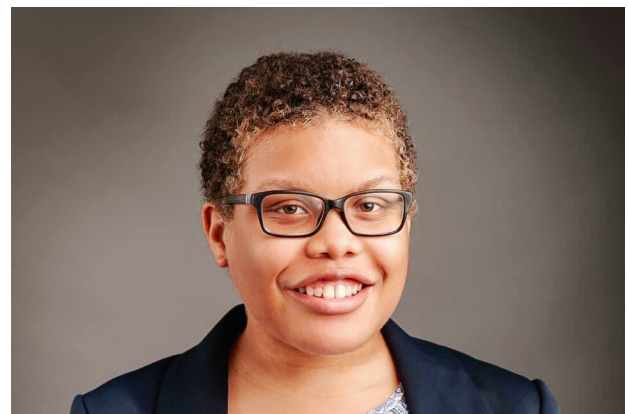
**CAEDYN PORZIO**

History graduate; student at Washington and Lee University School of Law.



**LILY RICHTER**

French graduate; intern at the French Embassy in Washington, D.C.



**SOLANA ROSTICK**

Art history graduate; master's degree student in museum and curatorial studies at the University of Florida.





## National Rankings

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Wofford College is nationally known for the strength of its academic program, outstanding faculty, study abroad participation and successful graduates. Recent rankings include:

#8 among baccalaureate colleges for the percentage of students who study abroad for academic credit  
(OPEN DOORS REPORT)

#1 Private Liberal Arts College in South Carolina  
(THE WALL STREET JOURNAL)

#10 Top National Liberal Arts College  
(DEGREE CHOICES)

#51 Best Value Schools  
#59 National Liberal Arts Colleges  
#71 Top Performers in Social Mobility  
(U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT)

The Best 387 Colleges  
The Best Value Colleges: 209 Schools with Exceptional ROI for Your Tuition Investment

#15 Best Alumni Network  
(PRINCETON REVIEW)

#54 Top Liberal Arts College  
Top 100 for America's Best Small Employers  
(FORBES)

WOFFORD ALSO HAS BEEN RANKED AS A BEST VALUE BY KIPLINGER'S PERSONAL FINANCE, FORBES AND MONEY MAGAZINE AND AS A "COLLEGE DOING THE MOST FOR THE AMERICAN DREAM" BY THE NEW YORK TIMES.



## Board of Trustees

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Brand R. Stille '86, *vice president for enrollment*

Elizabeth D. Wallace '82, *vice president for campus life and student development and dean of students*





**WOFFORD COLLEGE**

**Office of the President**

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WOFFORD.EDU

Wofford's mission is to provide superior liberal arts education that prepares its students for extraordinary and positive contributions to society. The focus of Wofford's mission is upon fostering commitment to excellence in character, performance, leadership, service to others and lifelong learning.

Wofford College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, sex, age, national origin, disability, veteran status, sexual orientation or any legally protected status.