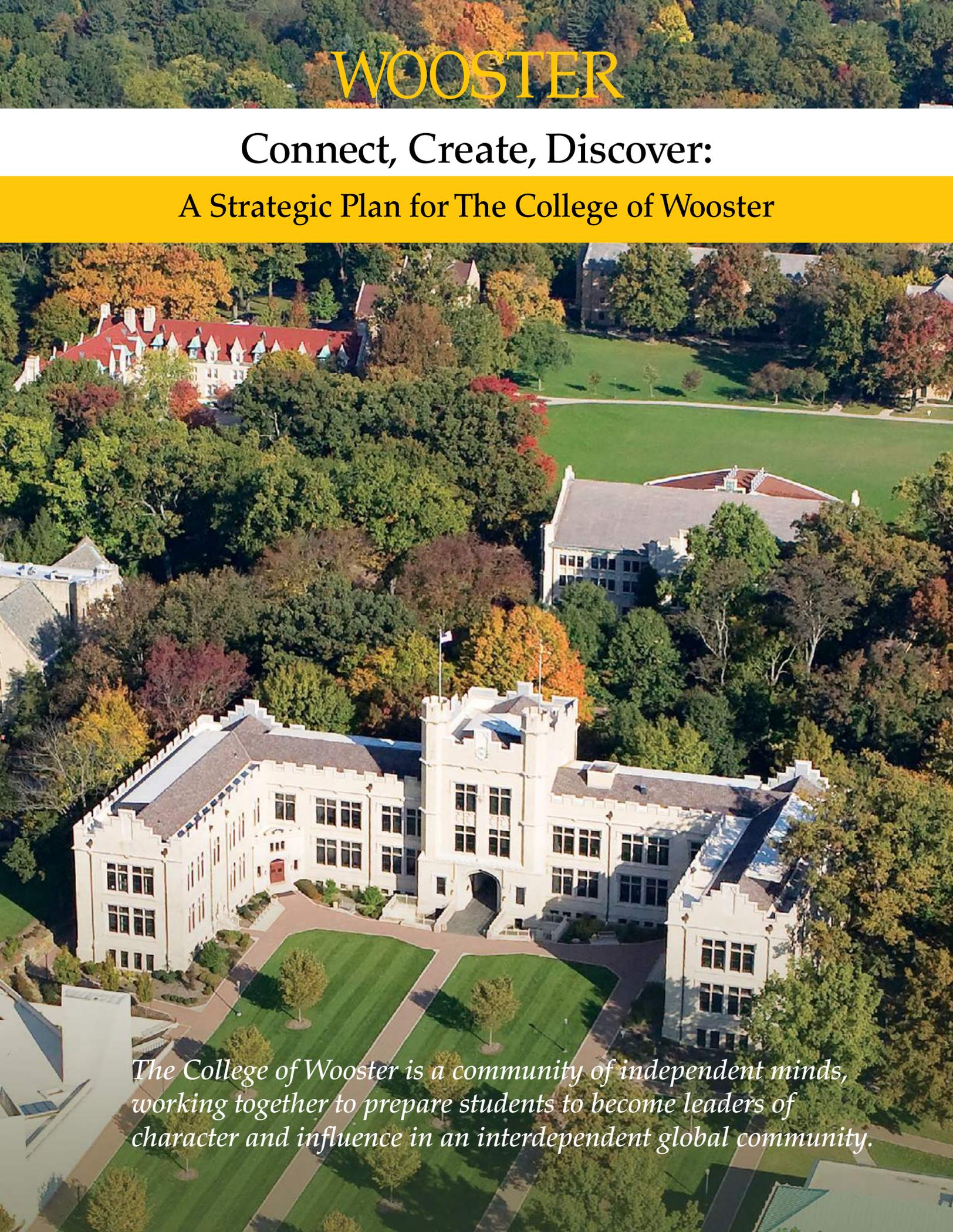


# WOOSTER

## Connect, Create, Discover: A Strategic Plan for The College of Wooster



*The College of Wooster is a community of independent minds, working together to prepare students to become leaders of character and influence in an interdependent global community.*

# Connect, Create, Discover: A Strategic Plan for The College of Wooster



Dear Fellow Scots!

Wooster’s promise is timeless and powerful. But the world our students will enter is changing extraordinarily fast in ways that profoundly affect how we learn, think, work, and connect. To meet our mission for the future—to prepare students to make an outside impact in their communities and to address the most important challenges of the coming decades—we need to evolve.

The challenges of the future will certainly demand the learning that comes through the liberal arts and independent study, but they will also require collaborative work of groups with diverse perspectives and the ability to synthesize multiple ways of approaching a question. Connection across disciplines, individuals, teams, cultures, and differences will be more important than ever.

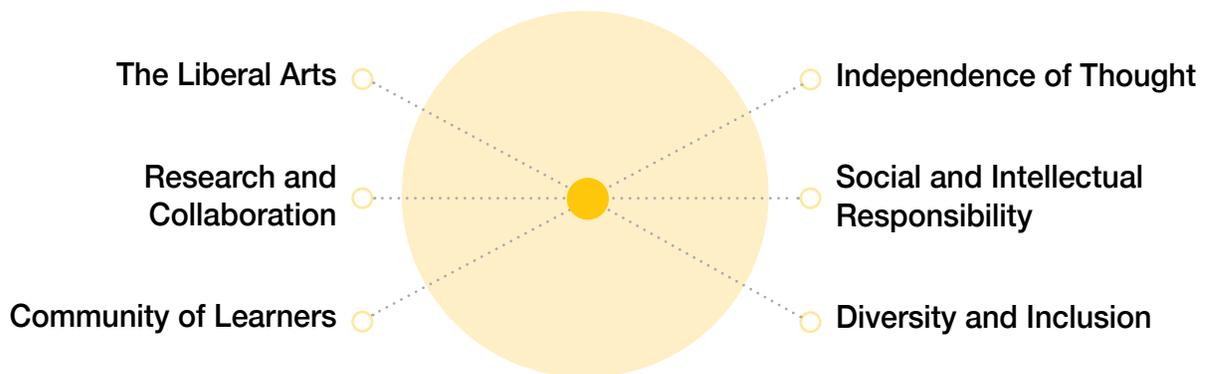
We are excited to launch Connect, Create, Discover, a new strategic plan for Wooster. Please join us as we implement our new strategic plan, as a volunteer, through annual support for key initiatives as part of The Wooster Fund, or by investing in endowment and capital priorities.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sarah Bolton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Sarah Bolton, President

We launched our strategic conversations with Wooster’s mission and core values.

## WOOSTER’S CORE VALUES



## INDICATORS OF SUCCESS in Achieving our Strategic Imperatives (KILTS)

Our goal is to make an impact on each of these imperatives with focused action: building from our strengths, addressing threats and areas of weakness, and seizing opportunities. To do so, we have built this framework from extensive campus, board and alumni discussions, and have also brought to bear carefully-researched data about the experiences of current Wooster students, the reasons that students do or don't persist at Wooster, and the factors influencing the decisions of prospective students to apply and to matriculate. The overarching themes and areas of strategic focus and action have grown from these discussions and data.

- **Keeping Wooster's Promise:** We will realize our bold and historic mission in the most powerful ways for the future.
- **Inspiring:** We will draw strong students to Wooster from across the country and around the world and will ensure access and affordability.
- **Learning:** Our superb and distinctive education, inside and outside the classroom, will prepare students for lives of purpose.
- **Thriving:** Our international and diverse community of learners will thrive in a residential campus community that is vibrant, equitable, and deeply welcoming.
- **Strengthening:** Wooster will flourish, strengthening our resources, stewarding them well and building our reputation for excellence.



# Connect, Create, Discover: Areas of Strategic Focus and Action

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## **COMMUNITY** | *Create a vibrant, welcoming, and strongly-woven campus community which supports learning, thriving, wellness, and fun.*

Community matters to our mission. We bring students together on a physical campus because the learning they do by making meaning together—in classrooms, dining halls, concert spaces, playing fields, and residences—is crucial to their growth as people and to the impact they will make in the world.

### **Initiatives**

- Build a strong and inclusive community.
- Make the most of residential life; assure a residence-based “first community.”
- Deepen opportunities for student engagement and leadership development, celebration, and fun.
- Invest in spaces that support connection and community-building, including Lowry Center.
- Support student, staff, and faculty well-being and build a culture of health and wellness.

### **Priorities for Your Support**

#### **Renovation and Expansion of Lowry Center**

This \$35 million project will transform Lowry into a bright, welcoming and accessible student center that brings together spaces and services that support student thriving, connection, and success.

#### **The Wooster Fund**

Enhance support for every aspect of the student experience by investing in the “Campus Life” area of impact through [The Wooster Fund](#).



## **DIVERSITY & INCLUSION** | *Grow our internationality, diversity, equity, and inclusion.*

Students' best opportunities for learning take place when they study in a community that spans a wide range of experiences, traditions, cultures, perspectives, and beliefs. The diversity of the U.S. population of high-school graduates is growing rapidly, and students abroad are increasingly interested in the liberal arts. Thus, increasing the diversity of our community is ethically right, crucial for our students' preparation for their futures, and a necessity if our college is to be strong.

### **Initiatives**

- Continue to build the internationality and diversity of our community, including of the student body as well as staff and faculty in every area of the College.
- Enact the recommendations of the [diversity, equity, and inclusion strategic plan](#) to create a welcoming, equitable, and inclusive climate throughout all parts of the campus.
- Support respectful dialog across differences to deepen the connections and learning that happen in the College community.

### **Priorities for Your Support**

#### **The Diversity Initiative Endowment**

This Fund was established in 2016 by the Board of Trustees to support diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives at the College. This endowment honors emeritus trustees, Dale Perry '62 and Clarence (Reggie) Williams '63.

#### **Endowed Scholarships**

Endowed scholarships make Wooster accessible to bright, promising students from all walks of life.

#### **The Wooster Fund**

Select either "[Campus Life](#)" or "[Faculty and Staff Support](#)."



# Connect, Create, Discover: Areas of Strategic Focus and Action

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## **ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE & INNOVATION** | *Build on our history of excellence in the liberal arts and support strategic new academic pathways and connections.*

Wooster promises a broad education that prepares students for lives of purpose and a deeply mentored education, through which every student creates something new. Students value independent study and intellectual breadth, but they also seek well-articulated ways to explore a wider range of interdisciplinary interests and to connect applied subjects and professional exploration to an excellent liberal arts education.

### **Initiatives**

- Create academically robust and experiential ways for students to explore and pursue both intellectual passions and professional aspirations.
- Develop new pathways, including majors, minors, and more, that will be compelling to current and prospective students and powerful for their futures.
- Enhance first and second-year academic experiences.
- Encourage and support innovative modes of independent study.

### **Priorities for Your Support**

#### **The Fund for Curricular Innovation**

This Fund provides support to initiate enhancements to academic programs and curriculum that are responsive to changes in pedagogy and areas of inquiry while also facilitating students' educational growth. The goal is to promote Wooster's Graduate Qualities: Independent Thinking, Integrative and Collaborative Inquiry, a Dynamic Understanding of the Liberal Arts, Effective Communication, Global Engagement, Justice, and Civic and Social Responsibility.

#### **Academic Endowments**

There are multiple opportunities to endow either academic programs or faculty resources, strengthening the heart of our teaching and research enterprise.

#### **The Wooster Fund**

To annually support the people and programs that make Wooster unique, select the ["Mentored Undergraduate Research"](#) or ["Faculty and Staff Support"](#) areas of impact through The Wooster Fund.



## CONNECTED LEARNING | *Deepen and make more universal connections between learning in the classroom and engagement with the campus, local community, and the world.*

Our mission calls us to prepare leaders of character and influence in a global and interconnected society, so we seek to provide an education that is both globally engaged and locally grounded, rich in opportunities for collaboration, civic engagement, professional exploration, and leadership.

### Initiatives

- Make experiential learning central in every Wooster student's education.
- Continue to strengthen connections to life after Wooster to ensure that we are a great springboard to life and work for every student.
- Create an integrated mentoring team of faculty, staff, peers, and alumni for every student, to help them explore their passions and talents, successfully navigate challenges, and make the most of opportunities at Wooster and beyond.

### Priorities for Your Support

#### Be an Adviser!

Get involved with one of numerous [volunteer advising opportunities](#)! You may choose to mentor APEX Fellows, participate in mock interviews with our students, or share your expertise as part of a Black and Gold Dinner or WooLive: Alumni Talk.

#### The APEX Endowment

The College's Center for Advising, Planning, and Experiential Learning is a critical resource for the 21st-century Wooster student. An increased endowment will help us make high impact experiential learning, such as internships, leadership development, civic engagement and collaborative applied research part of a Wooster education for every student.

#### The Wooster Fund

To support the College's commitment to integrate intellectual and professional exploration, give to the ["Experiential Learning"](#) area of impact through The Wooster Fund.





[wooster.edu/strategic-plan](http://wooster.edu/strategic-plan) | 2019

For more information please contact the Office of Development at 330-263-2325 or [giving@wooster.edu](mailto:giving@wooster.edu).

THE COLLEGE OF  
**WOOSTER**

*Independent Minds, Working Together*

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