The Allendale Columbia Impact Initiative

make an impact, leave a legacy.
the impact initiative

Inspiring students to make an impact by giving them innovative opportunities to engage in the world they live in, so they can change the world they will inherit.

First here, then anywhere.
The Impact Initiative includes all unrestricted and restricted gifts given to AC over the course of this campaign, including all gifts to the endowment and ACTogether, the Annual Fund. Gifts of $10,000 or more can be designated to one of the four priorities within the Impact Initiative, or they can remain unrestricted in the campaign, which will allow us to be nimble and responsive as we pursue the highest priorities of the campaign in a timely way. Contributions to ACTogether are vitally important to the day-to-day operation of our School and the ongoing needs of our students and faculty. We would be most grateful for your continued support of ACTogether along with your gift to the Impact Initiative.
From the Head of School

At AC today, we attract over 400 students from more than 46 zip codes, 28 districts, and as many as 10 countries. Guided by the core values of AC, our students are excelling academically in a diverse community, innovating with an entrepreneurial spirit, engaging in the world in which they will work, and developing a global mindset before they graduate from high school. Almost a third of the Upper School will likely study overseas next year. Our course offerings will expand dramatically through our leadership in the online hybrid-learning consortium and we continue to be national leaders in S.T.E.M. and S.T.R.E.A.M. studies. Most importantly, as AC launches forward, we can see that our students are learning what it means to make a positive impact locally and globally.

The Allendale Columbia experience is different because our students and teachers have the freedom to design, imagine, innovate, and learn with the intention of growing intellectually while developing a deeper sense of responsibility to themselves, their family, and their society. As we celebrate our 125-year history, we are focused on anticipating and committed to addressing the next set of opportunities for our students.

In the one hundred and twenty five years since our founding as the Columbia School, Allendale Columbia School has matured into one of the region's most agile, responsive, global, and forward-thinking schools for children age 3 to grade 12.

Our students still pursue the goals set many years ago by our school: academic excellence, the preparation for leadership, and the development of character. In the second decade of the 21st century, we are leading the way as we teach students to actively engage in their education with the intent of making a positive impact.

In the fall of 2015, we launched our strategic plan: Making an Impact in a Global Century: The Allendale Columbia School Endeavor. The tenets of the strategic plan call for the creation of new intellectual centers of learning focused on global engagement, entrepreneurship, S.T.E.M., Design, Innovation, and Research. These critical areas of growth will challenge our students to think and work in new ways to better prepare them for the world they will inherit, shape, and lead. While we focus on a new strategic plan that will enable us to adapt to shifting trends for our students at AC, we remain committed to community engagement. We had a very successful launch of the AC Summer LEAP program in 2014 and we have expanded our partnerships with School No. 17 and School No. 25 of the Rochester City School District. In order to accommodate programmatic growth and respond to opportunities as they arise, we also recognize the importance of stewarding two of our greatest assets – our endowment and our 33-acre campus.

We must now actively join together to undertake a fundraising initiative that will support the components of our strategic plan, expand the impact of our community engagement, and help us thrive for another 125 years. We have a bold, new vision for AC and as we embark on the Impact Initiative, an ambitious, unrestricted campaign that will include gifts to the endowment and the Annual Fund, we are poised to be national and international leaders in N-12 education. We have identified approximately $4 million in needs and we are confident that the Allendale Columbia family will support the Impact Initiative financially as an investment in our children’s future and the region’s future. There is extraordinary momentum at AC today; we know the opportunities and challenges in education are daunting and some schools may not make it. With our visionary approach and your unwavering support, I am confident we will pull together, fund these growth initiatives, and lead the way.

Sincerely,

M. Gee
Head of School
Design & Innovation: From S.T.E.M. to S.T.R.E.A.M.

An institute that empowers students to actively shape entrepreneurial, scientific, artistic, and technological innovations that are directed toward making a positive impact on the world.

At Allendale Columbia, we believe knowledge and mastery of content is essential, but it must be coupled with the ability to apply it in creative and meaningful ways. Building on our tradition of academic excellence, AC students and faculty will continue to actively partner with businesses, universities, and organizations worldwide. Through problem solving, design work, relevant and translational research, and entrepreneurship, students will learn to collaborate across networks, lead by influence, and develop agility and adaptability.

The School recently completed the first renovation of the physical plant in five years with the addition of the new Design & Innovation Lab. The Lab reflects our commitment to offering all students the time and space to create, invent, engage in authentic experiences, and work collaboratively across S.T.R.E.A.M. (science, technology, research, engineering, arts, mathematics) disciplines.

- Develop design, innovation, and research courses with partners on and off campus.
- Engage students in the process of presenting and reflecting on their work with external partners.
- Provide unique opportunities and authentic experiences for all nursery through grade 12 students in the area of S.T.E.M., S.T.R.E.A.M, Design, Innovation, and Research.

Investment sought for S.T.E.M. & S.T.R.E.A.M. Impact Initiative: $250,000 - $500,000
A program focused on offering extensive opportunities for students, faculty, and community members to develop global empathy and a resilient global mindset, the AC Center for Global Engagement will prepare the next generation of students and teachers to not only lead and engage in the world they will inherit, but to make a positive and lasting impact. This underscores our commitment to the dignity of each person and respect for diverse populations.

Each year, 8-10% of our students are studying on J-1 and F-1 visas representing an average of 10-15 different countries including China, Czech Republic, Ecuador, France, Iraq, Israel, Ivory Coast, the Netherlands, Pakistan, South Korea, and Zimbabwe among others. Allendale Columbia also attracts a large number of new families relocating to the Rochester area because of our global focus.

Recently, AC has become known as one of the most diverse and, perhaps, the most globally-minded school in our region. We are fortunate to be leading the way in a concept known as “boutique boarding” which enables international students to live together by gender in comfortable international houses close to campus under the supervision of experienced house parents. With the opening of two houses—one for boys and one for girls—we enable our international students to bond socially and bring their experiences to their peers at Allendale Columbia on a daily basis. We can now launch our Center for Global Engagement from a position of strength and endeavor to further develop campuses overseas, study abroad opportunities, worldwide partnerships, and annual international service work enhancing our global impact.

- Appoint a forward-thinking, globally minded leader to develop K-12 opportunities to enhance, strengthen, and expand our students’ global empathy.
- Open Allendale Columbia International campuses.
- Expand our cultural immersion service trips worldwide.
- Develop language immersion study trips and exchanges worldwide.
- Start a K-12 Chinese Language Program.
- Enhance our diversity, global empathy, and global engagement through expanded admissions opportunities and enhanced scholarship resources.

Investment sought for Global Engagement Impact Initiative: $500,000 - $1,000,000
AC will become the hub for K-12 entrepreneurship and offer authentic opportunities to develop young global entrepreneurs.

While the education landscape is changing more rapidly than, perhaps, ever before, so is our local and global knowledge economy. The new AC Center for Entrepreneurship aligns with our strengths as we continue to offer more leading-edge design, innovation, research, and entrepreneurship opportunities for our students. AC is focused on developing resilient students who dare to take risks. We endeavor to challenge our students to develop an entrepreneurial mindset, partner with others, and make a global impact through effective social entrepreneurship.

- Appoint a leader to collaboratively develop K-12 entrepreneurship opportunities, partnerships, and courses with a focus on developing confident, entrepreneurial leaders with values.
- Develop the first K-12 entrepreneurship hub in our region.
- Develop courses collaboratively with external partners that require students to engage in social entrepreneurship beyond AC and make a positive impact.
- Offer opportunities for students—regardless of their age—to develop their own business plans and take an idea from inception to full development.

*Investment sought for Entrepreneurship Impact Initiative: $250,000 - $500,000*
Endowment & Scholarships

Every $1 million raised in endowment provides $50K in annual support in perpetuity.

Building on the generosity and commitment of AC community members who have supported AC’s endowment and scholarships for the previous 125 years, we endeavor to enhance the foundational strength of the school by securing endowment and scholarship funds that will:

- Continue to enhance our diversity by making it possible for more deserving students, from around our region and the world, to attend AC, regardless of their ability to pay.
- Ensure our ability to fund as many deserving scholars as possible without significantly impacting the annual operating budget.
- Offer donors an opportunity to make an impact today and leave a life-changing legacy for tomorrow.
- Provide much-needed, additional flexibility so that each generation of AC leaders can make innovative academic decisions, which will continue to keep our school on the leading edge.
Throughout our history, the financial support of our school community, through ACTogether, The Fund for Allendale Columbia, has solidified our longevity and commitment to education. This fund has been and will continue to be the cornerstone of our philanthropy efforts and without it, we would not have the ability to offer students the outstanding faculty, remarkable facilities, and unique programs we provide annually. Allendale Columbia relies on the charitable support of families, alumni, and the community to meet its annual operating expenses. Tuition alone does not cover the cost of an Allendale Columbia education, and it is ACTogether, The Fund for Allendale Columbia, that provides funding for this gap and allows us to say “yes” to additional projects as they arise throughout the year.

This fund, formerly known as “the annual fund,” equips our students, faculty, and staff with the necessary tools to engage within and beyond the classroom and make a positive impact.

Throughout the Impact Initiative, ACTogether will remain a priority to ensure that students can be offered authentic learning experiences and programs. ACTogether has funded projects in the past such as student travel to conferences and presentations, local and international experiential trips, technology upgrades, expanded AP offerings, partnerships with businesses and universities, and much more. Every gift to ACTogether makes an impact today and inspires others to join together and make a more powerful impact.

Investment sought for ACTogether Impact Initiative: $900,000
Community Engagement

A hallmark of the Allendale Columbia experience that includes everything from partnering with a public purpose to tackle summer learning loss to offering global May Term trips to make an impact beyond AC, community engagement is at the heart of every student’s experience at AC.

Partnering for a Public Purpose

We have a bold, new vision of having students engaged to make a positive impact in global communities through entrepreneurship, innovation, and integrated S.T.R.E.A.M. studies. In the most recent year, we have more than tripled student interest in global immersion experiences in Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Madagascar, and Senegal. We have strengthened our relationship with RCSD School No. 17 and School No. 21 and continue to develop more than 30 partnerships on and off-campus that attract colleges, universities, businesses, and community members.

Jump Start Summer LEAP at Allendale Columbia School

Allendale Columbia School is tackling the problem of summer learning loss head-on. The Summer LEAP Program is a six-week academic and character education initiative that provides students from School No. 17 in the Rochester City School District with an opportunity to strengthen their reading and math skills during the summer months.

Since its inception in 2014, every participant has seen an increase in his or her literacy and math scores attributable to the program. More remarkably, of the 22 students enrolled during the inaugural year, close to 80% were reading below the national grade-level standards when they began Summer LEAP, and by the program’s completion, 63% improved by one or more ability level.

With dedicated and loyal support, AC plans to expand the program by adding one grade level each year, enabling students to attend through 8th grade, which is why your gift to the Impact Initiative can change the future today. With your help, we can endow Summer LEAP specifically and create opportunities for community engagement and worldwide partnerships.

Investment sought for Community Engagement & Summer LEAP Impact Initiative $300,000
An incredible asset that must be nurtured and updated to meet our evolving academic and programmatic needs, our campus and facilities remain a high priority for AC in the strategic plan. As responsible stewards of our place both within and beyond the birches, it is critical for us to continually upgrade and renovate our teaching and learning environment. A portion of our philanthropic resources will be devoted to partially endowing a new staff position as Director of Campus and Operations and developing a responsive campus master plan. We endeavor to optimize safety, energy usage, and annual capital expenditures. The Campus Planning aspect of the Impact Initiative is focused on designing and upgrading our facilities to be among the best in the region and the nation as AC becomes a hub for forward-thinking, responsive, entrepreneurial, innovative, and collaborative studies.

**Investment sought for Campus Planning Impact Initiative:** $250,000 - $500,000