

Principia College 2022 50th Reunion Gift Classes of 1972 and 1973

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Initiative

Fundraising Goal: \$750,000

CASE STATEMENT



New student orientation at Principia College

Principia reunion classes have always found great joy in making significant donations that provide for expansion, growth, and renewal. In anticipation of our 2022 50th Reunion, 12 members of the College Classes of 1972 and 1973 Reunion Steering Board discussed current needs with the Principia College leadership. In total, the Steering Board evaluated seven different funding priorities. As members considered what type of gift would have the biggest impact, they overwhelmingly voted to fundraise in support of the College's diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) initiative.

Making an Impact

It was clear to the Steering Board that Principia has made great progress in the last 50 years, but continuing work is needed to ensure that Principia is as welcoming as possible for all its community members. Students, faculty, and staff must be equipped with the skills to listen meaningfully to other viewpoints, to help others feel heard and understood, to value differing opinions, and to be able to civilly express disagreement and constructively present arguments. With the College welcoming a more diverse student population each year, a DEI initiative in its broadest sense will offer opportunities to demonstrate the Golden Rule in daily life.

The College's DEI initiative is part of Principia's new strategic plan, "Thrive! 2025 Plan for Principia." Goal 1, "Live the Mission," includes the following initiative:

"Inclusion: Develop activities and vocabulary designed to foster stronger inclusion and awareness of exclusionary behavior and communication. Identify and correct possible barriers to communities and a stronger sense of belonging." (Initiative 1.3)

This initiative also supports Principia Policy 3: "Principia shall recognize that man as the child of God reflects the intelligence and strength of his Maker, and that all men have equal opportunity and equal ability in the sight of God."

The world needs Principia graduates with the skills and ability to embrace diversity of thought and work towards healing deepening societal divisions.

Endowing the Initiative

Our class gift is focused on securing DEI as a long-term focus at the College by funding an endowment. The College is actively engaged in defining the details. We love the idea of the annual earnings of the invested principle ensuring that the College will have the funding necessary to launch and sustain the program over time. By constructing the gift as an endowed fund, specifically for DEI initiatives, the program will not be dependent on annual budgets. Instead, we will ensure that funding is always available to address issues of belonging, inclusion, and opportunity for all Principians.

Honoring a Classmate

When our two classes arrived on the College campus almost 50 years ago, DEI was not a focus among students, but one of our classmates, Billy Miller (C'72), lovingly opened many of our eyes to the challenges facing the world around diversity, equity, and inclusion. After graduation, he has continued to make it his life's mission to educate Principians and help make Principia more inclusive as a community. As a professor at the College for more than 25 years, Dr. Miller has touched thousands of students' lives. In honor of his impact on our class and Principians—past, present, and future—this fund will be named the “Billy Miller C'72 Endowment Fund for DEI.”

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The 50th Reunion Steering Board has set a goal of \$750,000 for our 50th Reunion gift to establish the Billy Miller C'72 Endowment Fund for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. Reaching this goal will ensure sufficient annual interest to fund the continuous staffing and resources needed for annual training, activities, and management of the initiative. To be clear, funds may be used to cover any staffing and resource costs related, in the broadest sense, to addressing DEI criteria. If no DEI initiatives need funding, the College President may designate the funds to be used for academic programs that help educate students about diversity issues, including how to work compassionately and effectively with people with diverse backgrounds and thinking.

Thank you for considering a gift to our 50th Reunion fund.

For more information, contact:

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