# Mercy Transforms

## OUR NEXT 100 YEARS

*The Campaign for Misericordia University*



# THIS MOMENT CALLS FOR MISERICORDIA

For more than 100 years, the values of academic excellence, community, care, and commitment have been the defining core characteristics of a Misericordia University education.

Misericordia University stands apart through a deep-rooted calling to serve with integrity, shaping a future-focused curriculum inspired by the enduring charisms of Mercy. A Catholic college steeped in the Mercy values—*Mercy, Service, Justice, and Hospitality*—and committed to providing a well-rounded educational experience, Misericordia has grown into a thriving coeducational university that offers students unparalleled personal and professional opportunities.

As Misericordia University enters its second century, it does so with pride in the past and a bold vision for the future. Our reach now extends beyond northeastern Pennsylvania, attracting bright students from around the country who are called to embrace our values. **Today, Misericordia stands at a transformative crossroads: the chance to build not just a university that endures, but one that leads** by redefining excellence, expanding opportunities, and shaping the next century's programmatic innovation, community impact, and ethical leadership.



# Defying National Trends: The Misericordia Difference

As soon as he became Misericordia University's 15th president, Daniel J. Myers, Ph.D. focused on renewing both the size and stature of the university. **Entering class sizes grew every year for five years, with the last two incoming classes among the largest in Misericordia's history.** Over that same period, no fewer than 70 peer institutions—private, non-profit colleges and universities with fewer than 5,000 students—have closed or merged.

**In a time when the value of higher education is under heightened scrutiny, Misericordia is flourishing.** The university's resilience, success, and upward trajectory are defined by a combination of factors.




## Academic Excellence

Our values-based liberal arts curriculum cultivates critical thinking and intellectual curiosity, empowering students to achieve exceptional academic and post-graduate outcomes.

**Students in Diagnostic Medical Sonography BS and certificate programs from the Class of 2024 in the College of Health Sciences and Education achieved a 100% pass rate on their professional licensing examinations across all specializations.**

## Commitment

Misericordia's century-long commitment to service learning is a catalyst that fosters lifelong civic engagement and development of ethical values. Our approach to service is a differentiator that moves the educational experience from the abstract and theoretical to the personal and practical.

**Fully 60% of Misericordia students have participated in service learning projects by their senior year–a participation rate that is 15% higher than the average among private universities.**

## Community

Each Misericordia student is embraced by the university community. Dedicated and passionate professionals work hard—and *effectively*—to ensure students stay through graduation. Adjusted for economic and demographic factors, student retention rates at Misericordia are among the highest in the nation.

**78% of MU first-year students return for their second year, placing Misericordia 22% ahead of other schools and 4th in the nation for retention.**

## Care

Misericordia prides itself on providing unmatched personal attention to students in order to support their success. Misericordia students benefit from close personal connections and support from their faculty.

**The student-faculty ratio is 9:1 (twice as favorable as the national average).**

# Mercy Values Lead the Way

**MERCY. SERVICE. JUSTICE. HOSPITALITY.**



*"The charisms recognize that we are at our best when we see our connections to others….There is great power in that purposeful, collective work."*

**PRESIDENT DANIEL J. MYERS, Ph.D., INAUGURAL ADDRESS**

# Mercy Transforms: Our Next 100 Years

**Mercy Transforms: Our Next 100 Years** is an initiative to raise $50 million—an effort that will enhance the spirit of the four charisms and advance the capabilities of Misericordia University.

This bold vision for the dawn of our second century requires equally bold investments. Our comprehensive campaign is built on three foundational pillars—**Energized, Engaged, Eternal**—that encompass priority investments in capital projects, academic programming, and student success that align with Misericordia's strategic direction for the next century.










## MERCY TRANSFORMS: OUR NEXT 100 YEARS GOAL: $50 MILLION

2024–2029

| *$22 million* | *$25 million* | *$3 million* |
|---|---|---|
| **Capital Investments** | **Endowment** | **Misericordia Fund** |
| ▸ College of Business | ▸ Student Scholarships | ▸ Immediate Impact |
| ▸ Academic and Athletics Enhancements | ▸ Experiential Learning | ▸ Building Institutional Capacity |
| | ▸ Academic Innovation | |
| | ▸ Mission and Service | |

ENERGIZED

# Transforming through Innovation

## AN EXPANDED VISION FOR THE COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Catherine McAuley opened the first House of Mercy in Dublin, Ireland in 1827 and, three years later, founded the Sisters of Mercy. Her entrepreneurial act grew to be a worldwide organization for the social good, larger than many corporations today. The Misericordia University College of Business draws purpose and inspiration from Catherine's visionary work and the many others who have shown the unique power of a business education grounded in the values of service to others.

In the College of Business, our mission is to develop adaptable, values-driven leaders and redefine business education by integrating emerging technologies like artificial intelligence (AI) into the learning experience.

What distinguishes a Misericordia business education is our commitment to serve society with integrity and a curriculum that anticipates the future through the lens of Mercy values. Through undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral degree programs, as well as a range of minors and certificates, we equip students with the skills and mindset to thrive in a rapidly changing world.

### Bill Jones '85: A Life of Purpose, Formed at Misericordia

Following a successful career in finance, Bill answered a deeper calling to serve—first inspired at home and later shaped by his experience at Misericordia. That calling led him to the non-profit social service sector where he has spent more than 25 years in executive leadership roles working to improve the lives of those in need.

Bill's connection to Misericordia runs deep: he serves as adjunct faculty in the College of Business, an alumni leader, and a dedicated member of the Board of Trustees. His journey reflects the transformative power of a Misericordia education—and the kind of ethical leadership your support helps cultivate.



*"All of us as graduates were touched–and even transformed–by the spirit of Catherine McAuley and the charisms of the Sisters of Mercy. In our local communities and around the world, that spirit and those charisms are needed today, more than ever. Advancing the Misericordia mission is not just the right thing to do; it is our obligation."*











New majors in entrepreneurship, business economics, management, and marketing—with specializations in social entrepreneurship, project management, and sales—have been introduced to support enrollment growth and new demand for business degrees. There has been more than 50 percent growth in College of Business undergraduate enrollment over the past three years. The new footprint for the college will take shape in the existing library building in keeping with good stewardship and resource management.

Alongside our offerings, the College of Business will develop core *Centers of Excellence* focused on social entrepreneurship, management ethics, and responsible investing that expand our role as a regional leader in responsive business education.

**Signature capital projects and programming for the College of Business will include:**

- Redesigned classrooms enabling students to work within teams and with clients in real-world environments such as a new Bloomberg Finance Lab.
- Technology acquisitions to support a focus on the study of AI and ensuring [AI] competency for all graduates.
- Strategically redesigned outdoor spaces to promote informal gatherings and to host networking and student events.
- Welcoming community spaces for students, faculty, and guests.
- New faculty and leaders from industry serving as executives in residence, leading these efforts in the college and across the university.

Our new **Center for Workforce Development & Talent Solutions** will provide employers with skilled workers, create opportunities for employees to advance in rewarding careers, and strengthen our communities through economic growth and innovation.

## BUILDING CHAMPIONS ON AND OFF THE FIELD

Athletics infuses a special energy and excitement into life at Misericordia. Whether playing intercollegiate sports or intramurals, or majoring in health and exercise sciences, participating in athletics supports students' physical and mental well-being and provides opportunities to develop teambuilding and leadership skills.

With 31 NCAA DIII sports teams, and 35% of Misericordia students participating in intercollegiate programs, investments in athletics have an immediate impact, enhancing the overall experience for student-athletes and the campus community. Developing best-in-class facilities strengthens our ability to recruit and retain students who excel on and off the field.



### Among many highlights:

Misericordia Baseball captured the first team national title in school history, winning the 2024 NCAA-Division III World Series.

Following the success of establishing our NCAA Division III Men's Ice Hockey team in the fall of 2024, Misericordia has expanded our offerings to include a Men's Ice Hockey club recognized by the American Collegiate Hockey Association as of fall 2025.

Women's Soccer won a fourth straight MAC Freedom championship in the 2024 season, advancing to the third round of the NCAA Tournament and Julia Beck '24, '27, was honored as MAC Freedom Woman of the Year.







Programs such as sports management, exercise science, and physical therapy, to name a few, are promising growth areas for Misericordia with tremendous interest from student-athletes. To create a permanent home for exercise science and other sports-related fields, we will transform an underutilized facility into the MU LEAP Center (Learning, Education, and Performance Center)—a multi-function hub that will provide academic and athletic functions including:

- Three labs designated for exercise science (biomechanics lab, exercise physiology lab, and rehab and clinical training room).
- Classroom space to accommodate up to 48 students.
- Strength and conditioning facility.
- Locker rooms.



ENGAGED

# Transforming through Mission

By empowering our graduates to do their share of the world's work with a generous spirit, Misericordia continues to differentiate itself from other higher education institutions.






## ESTABLISHING A NEW CENTER FOR MISSION

Misericordia's mission lies at the heart of our identity and defines the pathway by which students are called to prioritize service to others in their academic, professional, and personal lives. Building on 100 years of devotion to the vision, core values, and critical concerns identified by the Sisters of Mercy, the new Center for Mission will centralize—and catalyze—work to create access and a sense of belonging for all students.

Honoring the original mission of Misericordia, the Center for Mission will align and organize resources to champion, support, and empower students across campus by offering leadership training, education, and mentorship. This deep grounding in our mission propels initiatives such as our *Ruth Matthews Bourger Women with Children Program,* which provides comprehensive support to single mothers earning their college degrees. One of only eight programs of its kind, it has been nationally recognized as a two-generation model for access and opportunity in higher education.

Misericordia's Center for Mission will ensure that the legacy and vision of the Sisters of Mercy will endure. The center will strengthen and expand our work of infusing spiritual development, leadership, and a call to service through all aspects of academic and student life.

This investment will also allow us to centralize all mission-related functions and resources, including service learning, linking students to external community service opportunities.



*"The Sisters of Mercy showed us the way; they whisper now where we must go. The critical concerns that they identified remain urgent and contemporary. At Misericordia, we truly live the mission. We greet students where they are, and we walk with them offering education, guidance, and mentorship that transforms them—graduating leaders who respond to the world through a Mercy lens."*

**AMY LAHART '95, VICE PRESIDENT FOR MISSION INTEGRATION & STUDENT LIFE**

## SPOTLIGHT ON SERVICE

At Misericordia University, service is a powerful catalyst for change—inside and outside the classroom. Service is integrated into every aspect of student life from the First-Year Experience to pro bono clinics in the graduate health sciences programs.

By integrating academic goals and meaningful service, our students gain hands-on experience while making a real difference in the lives of others.

In partnership with local organizations, students design and implement projects that address pressing community needs. In the process, they sharpen their academic knowledge, build essential 21st-century skills, and cultivate a deep sense of civic responsibility. This transformative experience not only benefits the community, but it shapes compassionate leaders.

### Highlights

- During spring semester 2025, 37 service events were attended by 213 individuals for a total of 1,354 service hours.
- In the College of Business, students serve members of vulnerable populations through a new Low-Income Tax Clinic.
- In the College of Health Sciences and Education
  - Pro bono clinics in physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech-language pathology serve 9,000 community members per year.
  - Nearly 400 organizations provide students with clinical opportunities for training and service.
  - Doctoral occupational therapy capstone projects benefit local and regional community members, with focus on aging populations, youth, the mentally and physically vulnerable, neurodivergent youth and adults, and athletes.

**THANKS TO THE DEDICATION OF OUR FACULTY, STAFF, COMMUNITY PARTNERS, AND DONORS–ALONG WITH THE PASSION OF OUR STUDENTS–MISERICORDIA'S SERVICE INITIATIVES HAVE CREATED LASTING IMPACT.**




For over 15 years, Misericordia's Jamaica service trip during winter break has empowered groups of students to bring hope and healing to vulnerable people and communities in the Diocese of Mandeville, Jamaica. Students support children with disabilities, the elderly, and the vulnerable, among others. Providing financial support for students to experience these life-changing service trips allows them to carry our mission and devotion to Mercy values into the world beyond our campus.








## ADVANCING EXCELLENCE IN HEALTH SCIENCES

Philanthropic investment in academic excellence will fuel the next era of growth for Misericordia's signature health science programs. Endowed funds for faculty and scholarships will attract and retain exceptional educators and students, while programmatic support and state-of-the-art equipment will ensure our graduates are prepared to meet the evolving needs of patients and communities. Expanding access through graduate scholarships will help address the national shortage of occupational and physical therapy practitioners. At the same time, investments in program innovation will strengthen Misericordia's ability to deliver compassionate care through clinical outreach and free therapy services for underserved populations—embodying our mission in action. Looking ahead, continued growth and innovation will require facilities designed for collaboration, discovery, and real-world learning.



ETERNAL

# Transforming Lives through Endowment Growth

Misericordia University was built out of a commitment to provide educational opportunity to underserved populations—our ability to continue this mission relies on our financial strength. The endowment is much more than a financial asset—it is a long-term investment in Misericordia University's stability and sustainability in serving those with the greatest need.

Over 40% of Misericordia undergraduate students are first-generation college students, and slightly over 33% percent of our students receive federal grants. The demand for need-based student scholarships and financial aid has dramatically increased along with Misericordia's progressive enrollment growth.

**In addition to providing scholarships, endowment funds for the student experience will help expand opportunities to enrich student life outside the traditional classroom for all majors.**



**The Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship:**
Funded opportunities to engage in rigorous, thesis-driven research in supportive faculty-student partnerships.




**Student internships:**
More pathways and opportunities to develop experience in professional settings.




**Student travel:**
Fostering a global perspective through increased opportunities to travel and study away, pursue service learning, and conduct research.

Endowments support our mission by strengthening our academic excellence and funding endowed chairs, professorships, and executives in residence. Permanent funding streams for faculty and practitioners are a key enabling resource supporting strong student mentorship, experiential learning opportunities, and the delivery of transformative teaching. Endowed positions present a unique opportunity for donors to leave a lasting legacy by investing in the educators who shape our future.

These investments will ensure that our class sizes can remain small and students have access and opportunity to build meaningful relationships with inspiring mentors, creative thinkers, and dedicated educators—today and for generations to come.

# Invest in Excellence

More than ever before, we need you because the world needs Misericordia graduates. Inspired by the charisms of the Sisters of Mercy, they are called to answer today's challenges.

Your commitment to **Mercy Transforms: Our Next 100 Years** will continue our founding mission into the next century and allow us to open the doors of opportunity and possibility for generations of students.



MISERICORDIA UNIVERSITY

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*Adam J. Grzech '13, '17 and Erin Kain Grzech '14*

*"Misericordia University is more to us than just a place of learning—it's where our paths first crossed and our story began. The campus holds memories of our first conversations and our shared dreams. The charisms of Mercy, Justice, Service, and Hospitality instilled in us during our time on campus continue to guide us in our personal and professional lives. Misericordia will always feel like home."*

**ADAM J. GRZECH '13, '17**
**DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS, KEYSTONE AUTOMOTIVE**
**MISERICORDIA UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES**