Doane Academy Announces Transformational $8 Million Gift



Lee Rowan

Doane Academy, a PreK - grade 12 Episcopal day school in Burlington, NJ, has received $8 million from the Lee Rowan Foundation in support of two major campus projects. This remarkable gift is one of the two largest made to the school since its founding in 1837.

The funds will enable the aims of *Onward and Upward: the Campaign for a New Fieldhouse and Enhanced Community Spaces at Doane Academy*: construction of a new gymnasium and fitness center, followed by conversion of the existing gym into an auditorium. Prior to receiving these monies, Doane had raised $6.4 million toward the two-phased project.

"This gift is simply monumental," said Head of School Erin Mayo. "It enables us to make radical, long-desired strides for our students in their athletic and performing arts experiences. We are enduringly grateful to the Lee Rowan Foundation for its generosity and faith."

The foundation's namesake, Lee Rowan, graduated from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology with an architectural degree in 1947. Later in life, she dedicated much philanthropy to educational endeavors, and she became a great friend and significant supporter of Doane Academy. In 2015, she and her husband Henry established a $17 million endowment to secure the school's future, in addition to contributing $5 million toward the construction of Rowan Hall, Doane's central classroom and office building.

Lee Rowan Foundation trustee Mike Piotrowicz stated, "Lee cared deeply about Doane Academy. She believed in the mission and had a strong desire to create the best possible environment for its students to excel. The new athletic facility and performing arts space will certainly strengthen the student experience. We are excited to complete this gift in honor of Lee."

Construction of the new fieldhouse is underway on the former site of the Elias Boudinot Elementary School; completion is projected for late next summer. It will house a pair of practice basketball courts, one tournament court, and a spacious strength and cardiopulmonary training room.

Founded in 1837 as an Episcopal boarding school and located on the banks of the Delaware River in Burlington, NJ, Doane Academy is now a co-ed, pre-K-12 college preparatory day school open to all faiths.