Q & A

How does Jesuit's tuition compare to other schools?

By choice and with a commitment to affordability, Jesuit's tuition remains one of the least expensive in the New Orleans area and is much lower than comparable private and independent schools. In addition, Jesuit remains, by far, the most affordable of all traditional Jesuit schools across the country.

How does Jesuit's Endowment work?

Jesuit's Endowment began in 1926 with a gift of $500,000 from Henry Prevost in memory of his son, who passed away at an early age. Today, thanks to the generosity of alumni, parents, parents of alumni, and other benefactors, Jesuit's endowment has grown to more than $30 million.

A significant portion of the endowment is donor restricted for financial aid. Proceeds from the endowment—up to five percent per year—are used to fund financial assistance for needy families. In FY 2016, Jesuit awarded a total of $700,000 to 160 families who were unable to afford Jesuit's tuition. The average grant was $4,500.

However, a substantially larger endowment such as the one being proposed would continue to cover the cost of financial aid and would also provide a non-tuition revenue stream, allowing the school to slow the growth of tuition increases in the future. This will benefit everyone.

How is the Endowment different from Annual Giving?

Scholarship donations go directly into Jesuit's Endowment to fund financial aid. Gifts to the school's annual fund are applied to Jesuit's operational expenses, allowing the school to price tuition at just 80 percent of what it actually costs to educate a Blue Jay. This formula, which has been in place since the mid-1970s, helps to ensure that Jesuit remain a school that is accessible to families from a diverse socio-economic spectrum. Simply put, the Alumni Giving Drive, Parents Giving Drive, and Parents of Alumni Drive help keep Jesuit affordable, accessible, and thriving year after year.

Where did the money come from for the work Jesuit is already doing to renovate classrooms and athletic facilities?

Nineteen of the main building's 32 classrooms have already been renovated using funds from Jesuit's annual operating budget at a rate of approximately six classrooms per year. Completing the project will require an alternative funding source due to increased operating costs with current campus developments and depreciation of existing infrastructure. In consultation with Jesuit's Board of Directors, a decision was made to make use of low-interest lines of credit to renovate the remaining classrooms and enhance athletic facilities across Banks Street. The school is relying on the generosity of its benefactors to supply the resources for these important upgrades.

How will this campaign make the school safer?

Replacing outdated wiring in the administration building and air conditioning the gym and Roussel Building, where temperatures can rise above 100, will make Jesuit a safer place in which to learn and work. Reconfiguration of space with the addition of the new building will also allow campus visitors to be properly screened and welcomed. The pedestrian bridge addition will also reduce traffic safety risks for students crossing Banks Street.

Why now?

Major improvements to the school's classrooms, gym and physical education building, and administration building are overdue and will only become costlier. Classroom improvements will provide our teachers with the necessary tools to prepare today's students for success in college and beyond. The wiring and plumbing in Jesuit's administration building is almost a century old and needs to be replaced to conform to updated code requirements. Prior to renovation, Jesuit's gymnasium was one of only a handful of high school gyms in the city without air conditioning. Locker rooms, bathroom facilities, and concession areas were outdated and in need of major repair. In addition, providing an arena for full student-body assemblies could not wait any longer. The economic climate is such that raising substantial funds for major projects will only get more difficult in the future.