

50th Reunion Giving Opportunities

Class of 1976 Executive Director of the Center for DEI Innovation and Leadership Endowed Fund

Gifts made to this endowed fund provide essential support for the Executive Director of the Center for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Innovation and Leadership, ensuring that Oberlin continues to attract and retain a visionary leader who can guide the Center's mission and impact. Similar to an endowed professorship, this fund is dedicated to supporting the Executive Director role whose leadership is critical to the Center's success.

The Center for DEI Innovation and Leadership serves to advance and inform diversity, equity, and inclusion thinking and practice with excellence. It brings together academic and research opportunities, co-curricular experiences, career programming, mentorship opportunities, community building, and civic engagement—empowering students, faculty, and alumni to be changemakers in their communities and professions.

Inspired by the Center's vision and Oberlin's legacy as the first college in America to open its doors to all students regardless of race or gender, Leanne Cupp Wagner '76 has made a \$1 million challenge commitment to the Class of 1976 Executive Director of the Center for DEI Innovation and Leadership Endowed Fund. She will contribute 50 cents for every dollar given by members of the Class of 1976, with the goal of raising a total of \$3 million to ensure strong leadership for this vital work and the lasting impact of the Center.

Class of 1976 Scholarship

Established in December 2000, this endowed scholarship fund was created by the Class of 1976 on the occasion of their 25th Reunion. These scholarship funds are awarded to first-year students who may not be able to attend Oberlin otherwise, and the funds are re-awarded each year until their graduation. The current value of this fund as of December 31, 2024 is \$160,393 and has helped provide annual scholarships to Oberlin students for the past two decades.

Area of Greatest Need

Critical needs of Oberlin's students and faculty are met through gifts to The Oberlin Annual Fund. These gifts are distributed to the areas of greatest need during the current fiscal year. Roughly 87 percent of unrestricted gifts will go to scholarships and financial aid. The remainder will support current-use needs around campus. These include everything from facility enhancements to emergency student loan funds. Oberlin Annual Fund gifts also allow the College to make the most of opportunities that arise throughout the year – for example, the chance to send a student to present research at a conference or to bring a great musician to campus for a master class.

Other Areas of Support

Many members of the Class of 1976 designate gifts to specific areas or funds. Donating to a specific academic department, program, fund, or area of interest can be done by choosing "Other" in the dropdown menu of the Class of 1976 50th Reunion Giving page and entering the designation in the box provided.