

Eight years ago, we dreamt about what was possible here at Morningside. Today our dreams are a reality. We have just completed the largest fundraising campaign in the school's history. We are a transformed college today because of you.

Over the course of this campaign, we have seen a 57-percent increase in full-time student enrollment. That motivated our alumni and friends, and a campaign that started with a \$30 million goal ended up raising more than \$45 million.

We had two major focuses in this campaign.

The first was to dramatically improve the appearance of our campus to offer students the best possible residential college experience. We created spaces all over campus where students, faculty and staff could meet and interact. We constructed new living spaces and modernized our student center and athletic facilities. All in all, we invested \$23 million in physical improvements. Today we have a campus that is as beautiful as any in the Midwest.

Our second focus was to make Morningside College more affordable for our students. This effort also was incredibly successful. We raised \$10.7 million for grants and scholarships and \$11.5 million for the endowment.

None of this would have been possible without our generous donors and a dedicated development staff led by our vice president, Tom Rice.

There is one person that I especially need to thank, and that is our campaign chair, **Jim Walker 1970**. It was his guidance, wisdom and generosity that drove this campaign. There is no more loyal Morningsider than Jim, and I am grateful for his tireless service to the college.

But, as Jim would say, many people did their part to make this campaign a success. Over 7,000 donors recognized the need and stepped up to help transform the college. So many donors told me of the difference Morningside College made in their lives. They wanted to ensure that the college would continue to impact lives of young people in the decades ahead. That can happen now!

It is because of all this momentum that the future of this college is so bright and the outlook so optimistic. The board, faculty and staff have already begun working to create a vision of the college in 2020. While this campaign focused primarily on improving the college's physical facilities, our vision for 2020 is all about enhancing the student experience. That endeavor will be even more exciting for the college's future.

Just as we dreamt big when it came to transforming the look of our campus, we also are dreaming big when it comes to envisioning the programming and activities we can provide our students both inside and outside of the classroom, to successfully prepare them for the 21st-century workforce.

We are in such a better place today than we were eight years ago. You can see that looking at our enrollment. You can see that walking across campus. You can feel the energy, passion and pride on campus every day. This has happened because of the support we received from each and every one of you. Several years ago, I talked to you about returning the luster to this great place. Because of you we did that, and I am eternally grateful.



Photo by Doug Burg, Burg Studios.

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