National Louis University (NLU) is in the midst of a period of exceptional innovation in every respect – from program delivery models, to a relentless focus on learning and outcomes, to the way we organize ourselves academically and administratively. We are increasingly recognized as a bold problem solver focused on post-secondary attainment, educator preparation and strong professional programming across a broad array of disciplines. Defined as a “positive deviant” by the Gates Foundation, National Louis tackles contemporary challenges in the ever-evolving landscape of higher education.

Today, just as in 1886, we believe in our mission of access to quality education and remain committed to the values of innovation, access and excellence. Our institution continues in a long tradition of focusing on student success and the impact on the communities we serve. The achievements of the past year exemplify the many ways that our talented faculty and staff advance our institutional commitments and values.

We made great strides in our efforts to close the attainment gap as evidenced by unprecedented student retention rates that exceeded national benchmarks for underserved students. Moreover, we provided our students with affordable options to pursue their educational aspirations, which led to an undergraduate program application growth rate that was the second highest in the nation. Likewise, online programming grew significantly as we broadened the professional pathways adult learners can pursue. Within the National College of Education, we witnessed a dramatic increase in our specialized education endorsements which yield stackable credentials for educators to advance their professional training. In addition, we continued our work to re-envision teacher preparation with the development of a competency focused, field-intensive approach that can insure a pipeline of great teachers for our nation’s children.

Our work was increasingly recognized externally and nationally as we were awarded grants from the Gates Foundation, Dell Foundation, A Better Chicago and the McCormick Foundation, among many others that supported our efforts to close the attainment gap for underserved students. In addition, we were awarded government grants that recognize our institution as Hispanic-serving and other grants that support our core work in early childhood education and teacher preparation. Our most notable points of recognition included making Money Magazine’s national list of “10 Colleges Whose Graduates Say They Make the World a Better Place” and PayScale’s 2017-18 College Salary Report which says our students entered the work force earning an estimated $46,900 per year after graduation.

NLU is moving higher education forward as work progresses on a new and innovative undergraduate college which provides access to quality, affordable education for all students, an expansion of online and blended programming that serves our adult students, and a re-envisioning of teacher and principal preparation for our nation that simultaneously focuses on leadership in early childhood. Our faculty, through their collective talents, are advancing the reputational excellence and distinction of our colleges by focusing on doing what matters most – serving our students.

It is an honor to steward an institution that is committed to equity and advancing social and economic mobility for students, their families and their communities. Today, as in 1886, we believe in the power of extending opportunity to all who seek to better themselves through education.

Nivine Megahed, Ph.D.
President

Scott C. Smith
Chairman, Board of Trustees
1886

Our Founder Elizabeth Harrison begins her training for mothers at the Loring School on Prairie Avenue in Chicago.

1930

The National College of Education, now firmly established in Evanston, introduced the first four-year teacher-training program in Illinois.

Pathways at National Louis University launches, providing students with access to bachelor's degree at a significantly reduced tuition rate.

College of Professional Studies and Advancement is born from the merging of the College of Arts and Sciences and the College of Management and Business Advancement.

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7,005 students

15:1 Ratio
average class size less than 20 for full-time students

14 undergraduate degrees

38 graduate degrees

20 online degrees

NLU Locations
5 Illinois • 1 Florida
Our graduates earn nearly 15% MORE than those graduating from comparable universities in Illinois.

35 endowed scholarships awarded currently

118 gifts from our faculty and staff back to the University in 2016

10 NLU is a Money Magazine “10 Colleges Whose Graduates Say They Make the World a Better Place”
ACROSS NLU: OUR STUDENTS

It all comes down to helping our students achieve excellence in their professional lives and in their communities.

“It feels like a family. You’ll really love it here. It’s really a great school. Great location, great views too — you can see the Art Institute out the window. Overall, a great program. I highly recommend it.”

—GUSTAVO CORREA
Pathways at NLU
“NLU has provided me with a myriad of tools to better reach my students, as well as connections with educators across Chicago and the world. Being able to take classes with and teach fellow educators has broadened my understanding of what it means to be a teacher today.”

—KARYN KEENAN ’19
National College of Education

“I am proud to just be a student at NLU. I am most proud that I overcame my fear of math. That accomplishment alone makes me know I can go further. I am excited about all my classes at NLU because it lets me know how close I am to accomplishing my goals and dreams.”

—CHERISE DURR, ’18
College of Professional Studies and Advancement
Faculty

“It is exciting to be at NLU during a time of much anticipation and excitement about what the future holds — the possibilities are endless. I am proud to be part of a team that is forging a pathway to the future.”

—KAVITA MATSKO, Ph.D.
National College of Education

Alumni

“National Louis means to me: diversity, inclusion and the opportunity to spread your wings.”

—GIA ORR ’01
College of Professional Studies and Advancement
“This is the one job I’ve had over the years where every day you show up is a day where you feel like you’ve made an impact in someone’s life. And I don’t think a lot of people can say that.”

— IVA KOLAROV, Ph.D. P.A.C.E. at NLU

ACROSS NLU: FACULTY, STAFF AND ALUMNI

Every member of our community has a role to play in student success and the success of this institution.
There are so many unique reasons to support National Louis University, whether you knew us simply as “National” or more recently as “NLU.”
National Louis University (NLU) is fortunate to have had a long and impactful relationship with the Robert R. McCormick Foundation.

- **The McCormick Center for Early Childhood Leadership** — In 2005, following years of support from the McCormick Foundation, NLU’s early childhood center was renamed in honor of the foundation after receiving a $2.1 million gift, ensuring the center continues the work of building the leadership capacity of the early childhood workforce.

- **Education to Employment (E2) Initiative** — In 2012, a generous $750,000 grant spanning three years was gifted by the McCormick Foundation to provide holistic, wrap-around systems of support for traditionally underserved populations and military-connected students to complete their degrees and become meaningfully employed after graduation.

- **Pathways at NLU** — Following the encouraging undergraduate retention and graduation rates of the E2 Initiative, NLU developed a newly informed strategy for undergraduate programming that is affordable, scalable and supports student success, addressing the national agenda that calls for increased graduation rates without escalating student debt. Pathways was funded by the McCormick Foundation for three years and is currently under consideration for a renewal grant as NLU continues to grow this model and its impact on access, success and closing the degree attainment gap.
Mary Bullock ‘54 dedicated four decades to the kindergarteners at North Elementary School in the Villa Park school system in Dupage County, Ill.

It was Mary Bullock’s commitment to educating students that drew her to the National College of Education, where she also received a master’s degree in ’64. “[She was] always interested in early childhood education — that’s why she went to National,” explained Esther Bullock, her sister.

In her estate planning, Mary Bullock left $2.5 million to the National College of Education to support scholarships for the next generation of early childhood educators. NCE-trained teachers will start their own 40-year careers, thanks in part to the generosity of Mary Bullock.

“She enjoyed being there [at National]. She enjoyed the curriculum. It was what she wanted there, and it met her needs. She went to all kinds of different places — Hull House — she really got a good approach to different kinds of teaching environments.”

—Sister of ‘54 alumna Mary Bullock
“As long as the spirit of Elizabeth Harrison is alive and well in NCE, this is a place that deserves everyone’s support. A lot of things come and go in education, but as this college stays committed to the ideas of its founder and progressive education, it will remain a beacon for others.”

—JERRY LIGON, Ph.D.
PROFESSOR EMERITUS

Jerry Ligon, Ph.D., spent nearly 20 years with the National College of Education, first as a professor and then as NCE’s associate dean. He can attest to the College’s commitment to students and their learning — when his son tragically passed away during his time at NCE, he received an incredible amount of support from his fellow colleagues.

Recently Ligon committed a generous gift to contribute to the continuing success of the National College of Education. Thanks to him, NCE will continue to provide its unique brand of support to future students and future colleagues.

“I hope the program will establish a national model for educating people in human services, so that they can run their agencies and companies effectively and efficiently.”

—VINCENT PETTINELLI
FOUNDER OF PEOPLESERVE INC.

Vincent Pettinelli is a successful human services entrepreneur who founded PeopleServe Inc., a $350 million business providing human services to ill, disabled and elderly clients. In the past, when Pettinelli promoted competent psychologists and other specialists into management roles, many of them struggled because they lacked administrative knowledge.

Pettinelli approached National Louis University with the idea for the Master’s in Human Services Administration program. He provided seed money and worked with University leadership to launch the program in Fall 2017.
Thanks to the generosity of NLU alumni, friends and corporations, there are more than 30 merit-based scholarships available to NLU students across all degree programs.

**NLU DONOR SCHOLARSHIPS**

- **McCormick Center Students and Alumni Scholarship**
  This scholarship offers current and former McCormick Center professional development attendees a 10 percent tuition discount for new students that enroll in the Master’s in Early Childhood Administration or the Undergraduate Early Childhood Education or Early Childhood Practice programs.

- **D214 National Louis Scholarship**
  In partnership with District 214 high schools, National Louis University is offering a full tuition scholarship, renewable for four years, to graduating high school seniors. NLU will award 2 scholarships for the 18-19 academic year.
Patricia Cassin-Graft Student Teacher Assistance Fund Award

Patricia Cassin-Graft ‘57, and Michael J. Graft, Sr., have established this permanent endowment to support graduate or undergraduate NCE students who will complete their final student teaching requirements by providing funds of over $4,000 to cover the cost of tuition during the recipient’s student teaching term.

Jane Roiter Memorial Scholarship in Counseling and Human Services

In memory of the life of Dr. Jane Roiter, the Jane Roiter Memorial Scholarship will provide tuition assistance on a competitive basis to degree seeking, full- or part-time students in the University’s M.S. in Counseling and Human Services program.
WELL, WE JUSTCouldn’t DO IT WITHOUT...

$10,000+

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