Support for Great Teachers and Inspiring Coaches
Endowed Chairs

As part of the three-year Inspire & Invest Initiative to grow its endowment, the Academy seeks funds to name academic chairs and instructorships to support compensation and contribute to faculty member professional development activities. Recipients of these esteemed named positions are acknowledged for mastery of their subject matter, commitment to students, and dedication to the teaching profession. The Academy’s current list of endowed chairs includes the Sidney E. Ainsworth Chair in Mathematics, the Dr. Ray Bird Master Chair in English, the Harold H. Corbin Jr. Chair in Environmental Studies, the A. John Huss Jr. ’58 and Ruth S. Huss Chair in Humanities, the Ned and Lynn Jessen Chair in Humanities and the Edmund J. Rendtorff ’43 Chair in Science. Benefactors may endow a position at the following gift levels:

- Head of School Chair ($5 million)
- Master chairs ($2.5 million each)
- Faculty chairs ($1 million each)
- Instructorships ($500,000 each)
Faculty Professional Development Endowment Fund

Raising funds to support faculty professional development is a crucial way for an institution to acknowledge a faculty member’s commitment to the pursuit of knowledge and to celebrate his/her desire for scholarly advancement. A sustainable and enhanced professional development budget will aid the school in recruiting and retaining elite faculty members who aim to exercise their minds through research, travel, and advanced studies. LFA’s students benefit greatly from faculty who are energized by scholarly pursuits. In conjunction with the Goulet Family Faculty Fund, the Alumni Award for Teaching Excellence, the Nicki Newman Tanner ’53 Excellence Fund, and the Gorter Family Faculty Fund, new faculty professional development endowment funds will help underwrite LFA's professional development offerings and demonstrate the school’s ongoing support of its teachers and their craft. Benefactors may name an endowed professional development fund at $25,000 or more.
Expand the Global Professional Development Endowment Fund

An environmental science teacher investigates invasive species at a conference in Scotland. An art teacher explores ceramics and textiles in Istanbul. A physics teacher travels to Switzerland’s CERN—home of the largest particle physics laboratory in the world. These global experiences are made possible through the Mints Professional Development Endowment Fund, which was established through a generous gift from the estate of Thomas Mints ’45, to support individual faculty enrichment projects. Most of these faculty projects take place during the summer and have a global focus. Since the fund’s inception in 2004, the Academy has supported 32 faculty members. These instructors return to campus and use their newfound knowledge to enrich the classroom experience for LFA students. LFA seeks an additional $1 million from multiple donors to supplement the Mints Professional Development Endowment Fund to allow more faculty members to take part in global summer enrichment opportunities, making the world their classroom.
Establish a Faculty Innovation Endowment Fund

Create a Faculty Education Endowment

Ensuring that students have access to dedicated, professional, and highly knowledgeable instructors is a high priority for the Academy. The Academy fosters a culture of excellence and communicates the importance of post-bachelor’s degree study through its endowment fund to support graduate-level higher education. For instance, teachers seeking graduate degrees at Northwestern and DePaul universities have been reimbursed for a portion of their tuition. Currently, 13 faculty members are pursuing advanced degrees with partial underwriting by LFA. By investing in talented, scholarly young faculty members, the Academy is investing in the Academy’s vibrant academic program. LFA seeks $1 million or more from multiple donors to help establish a Faculty Education Endowment.

Establish a Faculty Innovation Endowment Fund

Lake Forest Academy prides itself on being one of the nation’s most academically rigorous college-preparatory schools. To meet the learning styles and diverse needs of students, faculty members are called upon to explore the creation of new courses and techniques in teaching and learning. The Academy seeks to establish a Faculty Innovation Endowment Fund that will encourage faculty to compete for Innovation Grants, administered by the Head of School in consultation with the Dean of Faculty. The Faculty Innovation Fund may be named and endowed with a gift of $500,000 or more.
Supplementing the Faculty’s Impact on Students

Lake Forest Academy has a long history of supplementing the expertise of its faculty with prominent guest speakers and performers who enrich the student experience. In fact, the Academy remains a nationally ranked school because of the caliber of its many signature programs and events. LFA seeks additional philanthropic investment to enable this tradition to continue in a robust fashion.

National Speakers Endowment Fund

Poet Robert Frost. Native American novelist Sherman Alexie. Pulitzer Prize winner Gwendolyn Brooks. Holocaust survivor Nellie Wiesenthal Fink. Olympic Gold Medalist Jesse Owens. The list of luminaries who have visited and lectured at the Academy throughout its history is long and stellar. An endowment to support national and international writers, scholars, and other distinguished figures will expose the community to diverse points of view, ideas and thoughts, inspire elevated thinking, and ignite creativity. Lake Forest Academy seeks multiple donors to contribute a total of $1.5 million. The fund may be named by a donor for a $1.5 million commitment.
Dean of Students Discretionary Endowment Fund

The Academy proposes an endowed fund to underwrite expenses for students who encounter obstacles to their success during the school year due to an economic emergency. These funds may be used to assist in family emergency situations as well as to support student involvement in extracurricular activities or other student enrichment events, thereby building community, promoting the school’s culture of participation, and increasing inclusivity. A percentage of annual endowment earnings (approximately $17,500 or more) from a $500,000 endowment will fund emergency hardship grants to students and families or activity participation funds; unused funds will be re-invested. The Academy seeks multiple donors to contribute a total of $500,000. The fund may be named by a donor or family for a $500,000 commitment.

Athletics Endowment

Athletics foster teamwork, cooperation, camaraderie, and confidence while contributing to the physical, social, and emotional development of all students at LFA. The Academy, which requires students to participate in athletics, is proud to offer 37 team sports during its three seasons. Student-athletes on all teams perform before their peers at home, as well as travel to away matches and tournaments, which provides opportunity for greater competition and exposure on a wider stage. Approximately, $100,000 is spent annually to transport team members to off-campus events. The Academy proposes an endowment to underwrite travel expenses for LFA athletic teams while also supporting capital expenditures, including the stewardship and maintenance of existing campus sports venues. Lake Forest Academy seeks multiple donors to contribute a total of $2 million. The fund may be named by an individual donor or family for a $2 million or more commitment.
Visiting Artist Endowment

A private audience with a world-class artist, sculptor, musician or poet can inspire, enliven, and influence both students and faculty. An endowed fund to support visiting artists at the Academy elevates an already strong arts program and emphasizes the importance the school places on exposing students to innovative and inspiring working artists and their craft. This endowed fund will supplement the Kaplan Family Fine & Performing Arts Visiting Artists Series Endowment. Lake Forest Academy seeks multiple donors to contribute a total of $1 million. The fund may be named by an individual donor or family for a $1 million commitment.

Performing Arts Endowment

The Academy proposes an endowment to support the repair, cleaning, and replacement of musical instruments to enhance and improve the musical program as well as annual repairs to venues where theater and concerts are performed on campus. Regular maintenance and upkeep of musical instruments as well as concert and drama venues contributes to their longevity and usefulness. The LFA Orchestra has grown considerably in the past decade and today includes approximately 50 student musicians. Approximately 140 students participate in theater or music productions each year. Nearly $35,000 will be spent annually from the Proposed Performing Arts Endowment earnings to ensure diverse artistic opportunities for LFA students. This endowment will supplement the Pattis Family Endowed Performing Arts Fund. Lake Forest Academy seeks multiple donors or an individual donor/family to contribute a total of $1 million. The fund may be named by a donor/family for a $1 million commitment.