It's Official!
$50 Million Campaign Largest Ever

The launch of the largest and most ambitious comprehensive campaign in Carroll’s history marks the first time that the university has sought to raise $50 million.

“This, friends, is a big deal,” President Doug Hastad told an audience of more than 200 people who came together on October 16 to celebrate the start of the campaign’s public phase.

Dr. Hastad announced that Campaign Carroll: The Common Thread emerges from its quiet phase, which began in 2009, with more than $31 million, or 62% of its goal, in gifts and pledges. The public phase is intended to go through June 30, 2016, as the university continues working toward its financial goal to support students, academic programs, and campus facilities.

The campaign journey began several years ago amid a long-range strategic plan focused on strong academic programming, infrastructure, and sustainability to position Carroll for future growth, according to Jim DeJong ’73, chair of Carroll’s Board of Trustees. He is serving as the campaign committee co-chair along with Timothy Sullivan ’75, another trustee.

“As trustees of Carroll, each of us can tell you firsthand that Carroll is a place on the move. And when this campaign exceeds its goal—and it will—you will see another level of transformation,” DeJong said.
Sullivan stressed the need to build Carroll’s endowment, which university administrators note lags behind those of other institutions, such as Lawrence University, Beloit College, Elmhurst College, Monmouth College, Ripon College, and Carthage College.

He said of the $14 million planned to increase Carroll’s existing endowment, “I call that a good start. I don’t call that the end game.”

The financial goals for endowment and facilities—including a new state-of-the-art science center—account for 78% of the total funds sought. The science building, planned for opening in the fall of 2016, will be Carroll’s first building constructed with only gift dollars.

“To many people, it will be just simply another building on campus,” said sophomore Emina Halilovic ’17. “To me, though, it is a place where I can make dreams come true, where I can further my education and get one step closer to my goal of becoming a pediatrician.”

Joanne Passaro, provost and vice president of academic affairs, said of the campaign that “each of us has an enormous stake in its successful completion. The success of future generations of Pioneers depends on it.”

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—Jim DeJong ’73, Campaign Co-Chair & Chair, Board of Trustees
Angela Brindowski, the Gladys McKay Richter ’36 Chair in Nursing, is the common thread that connects today’s students with Gladys McKay Richter ’36 and her husband, George. Angela is the first person appointed to the chair, which was created to support a nursing faculty member in his or her pursuit of excellence.

A business graduate who loved Carroll, Gladys was a generous donor in her lifetime. When she became ill late in life, she received outstanding care from her nurses. Their care inspired George to establish the chair with a gift of $1 million, using a portion of his estate commitment to Carroll.

Preparing quality nurses requires skills development and technology. The inspiration for this gift, though, emphasizes the foundation of nursing—caring for others. “It is what our program is about,” Brindowski said. “I tell students how this gift shows that good things can happen through good care. Gladys McKay Richter lives on through this gift.”

“The Gladys McKay Richter Chair is an honorary title, and Angie exemplifies the honor,” said Jane Hopp, dean of the College of Natural Sciences and Health Sciences for Carroll University. “She is an excellent clinician, renowned educator, and great visionary within nursing education. She has been instrumental in developing an innovative nursing program that combines simulation and clinical exposure that is integrated throughout the training.”
Carroll’s theme for its comprehensive campaign is centered on *The Common Thread*. If you’re reading this, you’re likely already a part of that thread. What, though, does it really mean?

Go back 169 years to Carroll’s start in 1846. Think about those first Pioneers and others who have come since then. Students. Professors. Staff. Alumni. Simply put: It’s the thread that ties us all together through many years of history but that will also connect us to our future—with your help.

Peter Burress ’16 became a part of the thread when he saw his Pioneer future open up through a scholarship. He called it a “game changer” in his life.

“At one moment, I was making myself sick thinking about the realities of my future, and the next moment I absolutely knew where I was supposed to spend the next four years of my life—the school with the charming campus where the faculty and staff would legitimately care about me and my future,” he said.

At Carroll’s core, we all know that we cannot place a price on what truly makes this university thrive: the people. That is where the *The Common Thread* ties start and continue.

Strengthening that thread, though, requires continued support. It’s the kind of support that the university is seeking through *Campaign Carroll: The Common Thread* to ensure that our ties remain vital and strong.

Through *The Common Thread*, we will continue our commitment to applying evolving technology, realizing state-of-the-art science facilities, and offering more graduate programs, all while maintaining the personalized attention that attracts students like Peter to Carroll.

As he looks forward to his Carroll graduation and hopes to attend graduate school, he knows that his *Common Thread* connections will make the difference.

“I am confident that whatever happens, I will have individuals from my life at Carroll backing me up,” he said. ■