

# CORNELL COLLEGE

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

**DATE:** February 26, 2024

**TO:** Interested Members of the Class of 2024

**FROM:** Jeff Jensen, Chair of the Board of Trustees

**RE:** Invitation to Trusteeship

Since 1971, the Board of Trustees of Cornell College has welcomed a member of each graduating class as a Trustee of the College. During the past several years, the following Cornellians have participated on the Cornell Board as Young Trustees: Jessica Meis '19, Marissa Czapla '20, Sultan Ahmed Khan '21, Lauren Williams '22, and last year Makayla Kelleher '23 began her three-year term. We invite you to apply to become the class of 2024 Young Trustee and hope the following information will be useful to you as you consider the responsibilities of trusteeship.

The Board of Trustees is the governing body of Cornell College. As such, it sets overall direction for the College and ensures that resources are aligned with the College's mission, values, and strategic priorities. The Board also explores, debates, and then formulates high-level policies governing the operations of the College. Additionally, the Board is responsible to employ the President of the College. The President is responsible for building a staff to carry out the day-to-day operations of the College with the policies as guidance.

Cornell asks Trustees to contribute their time, talent, and treasure to the College.

**TIME:** The Trustee from the Class of 2024 will serve a three-year, non-renewable term. The senior recommended shall be considered and voted on by the Trustees at the Spring Board Meeting and shall become a Trustee upon completing all requirements for graduation. Each newly-elected Trustee attends a New Trustee Orientation session prior to their first Fall Board Meeting.

The Board of Trustees meets twice on campus and once off-campus in a retreat format each year. Board Meetings begin on Friday morning and continue through Saturday mid-day. For any Trustee who arrives in town on Thursday, traditionally the Board holds a Trustee dinner that evening. The main plenary session (business meeting) of each Board Meeting is typically scheduled on the fourth Saturday in October, the first Saturday in February, and the first Saturday in May. The Saturday plenary session usually adjourns by 12:30 p.m. Trustees are asked to attend all regular and special meetings and are required to attend at least 50 percent of all scheduled meetings during the three-year term.

When the Young Trustees have finished their term of service, we expect them to stay in touch with Cornell while exploring ways to make additional contributions to the College's strength and excellence.

**TALENT:** Trustees are not elected to represent special constituencies. The member of the class of 2024 who becomes a Trustee is not a representative of the class to the Board. Trustees are nominated and selected to serve because of their professional experience, their personal integrity, and their ability to think creatively about ways to enhance Cornell's reputation and its competitiveness in the educational marketplace. A recent graduate of Cornell may not have the professional experience, the personal contacts, and the financial resources that other Trustees often have, but the graduate can bring to the job the essential qualities of good character, sound judgment, and strong commitment to Cornell College.

Trustees bring their opinions and unique perspectives to the meetings. We value the diversity of their viewpoints, and we encourage the free and frank exchange of ideas. The ultimate concern of a Trustee, however, must be Cornell College—its mission, its excellence, and the ways and means to ensure its successful future. The Trustee from the Class of 2024 will have the opportunity to participate in the governance of Cornell College at its highest level. The Trustee will share this experience as an equal partner with the other members of the Board. The Trustee will be expected to analyze data, review proposals, participate in conversations about the issues presented at the meetings, and vote when the questions are called.

**TREASURE:** Each Trustee is asked to invest financially in Cornell's future. That investment is a tangible and important expression of a Trustee's commitment to the College. We will ask the Young Trustee of the Class of 2024 to make that commitment through regular contributions to the Cornell Fund.

The Trustees know that a new graduate may leave Cornell with financial obligations. The Board requests, therefore, that Young Trustees participate in the Cornell Fund at a level they can reach. That participation sets an important example for younger alumni to follow.

At the end of this academic year, you will complete your experience of Cornell in depth from one perspective—that of a student. Young Trusteeship is an opportunity to experience Cornell from a new and different perspective. We invite you to apply and continue to learn with us.

If you have any questions or concerns as you consider the responsibilities of trusteeship, please let us know.

