The Honors College is challenging high-achieving and motivated students from across the state and nation. Now, our challenge is to bolster the Honors College with investments in scholarships and interdisciplinary learning spaces.
The Honors College is on the cusp of establishing itself as the first choice for academically gifted and motivated students in the state of Montana and in the region.

Honors students have brought great distinction to our university through prestigious awards such as the Rhodes, Marshall, Truman, Gates-Cambridge, Udall and Goldwater Scholarships. This is a direct result of MSU’s commitment to academics, research and public service. As future leaders, Honors students have gained admission to our nation’s top graduate and professional schools.

The Honors College has recently been approved to occupy space in the planned Norm Asbjornson Innovation Center (NAIC). With a vision of leveraging mutual interests and talents among faculty and students, the NAIC shares inherent values with the Honors College. The innovation and collaboration-oriented NAIC is a natural fit for establishing dedicated space for the Honors College and will stimulate the exploration and creation of knowledge across disciplines.
CARA THURINGER

As a double-major in environmental studies and photography, Honors College student Cara Thuringer said, “Sometimes, photographs are how I can best comment on the human relationship with the environment.” The South Dakota native, who spent summers at her family’s lake cabin, credits her parents with sparking her love of the environment.

Cara emerged as a leader at MSU beginning with her volunteer work for the MSU Network of Environmentally Conscious Organizations and a senate seat in student government.

She worked with the Montana Conservation Voters as a student-intern during the 2015 legislature. Cara has also worked with the Western Environmental Law Center and in her spare time takes photographs of the impact of coal trains on area bridges.

In the spring of 2015, Cara’s outstanding leadership and devotion to public service were recognized as she became MSU’s 11th Truman Scholar.

As an MSU Honors student, Cara’s engagement and service is the embodiment of how President Harry Truman once famously described our country was built, “on courage, on imagination and an unbeatable determination to do the job at hand.”

Honors College: contributing, excelling and growing

39%  
Increase in Honors College enrollment since 2009

29.54  
AVERAGE ACT SCORE OF HONORS COLLEGE STUDENTS

8th  
MSU’S RANKING AMONG TOP UNIVERSITIES FOR NUMBERS OF GOLDWATER SCHOLARS, PLACING US BETWEEN MIT AND YALE

100%  
of Honors College students are engaged in undergraduate research

PEOPLE WITH COMMITMENT.

STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

The outstanding quality and character of our Honors College is gaining distinction. In 2015, 569 highly-qualified and committed students applied for Presidential Scholarships. MSU had resources to fund only 20 incoming Presidential Scholars.

With private support we can expand the number of Presidential Scholars and bring more of the best and brightest minds to MSU.

FACULTY FELLOWSHIPS

Faculty are the lifeblood of our university, and those called to teach Honors College courses go above and beyond by offering research experiences and serving as mentors to our students.

Private support for faculty fellowships would give the Honors College capacity to incentivize faculty and visiting professors to teach unique courses and seminars in the Honors College.
Dear friends of the Honors College,

September 19, 2013 marked a milestone when the Montana Board of Regents elevated our Honors Program to a college. Since then, we have witnessed a pronounced increase in applications to the Honors College. What is clear is that MSU has become the institution of choice for highly motivated students from Montana and across the nation.

Students of the Honors College have become Fulbright and Rhodes Scholars, and have also been honored with Boren, Goldwater, Marshall, Truman and Udall Scholarships. Such recognition is due to the hard work of our students and inspirational teaching by world-class faculty.

Honors graduates have gained admittance to top graduate and professional schools, and are taking their place in the world as resourceful, courageous and humble leaders. They stand ready to place their considerable gifts in service of others. They give us all hope.

I invite you to partner with us as we charter MSU’s youngest college’s trajectory for the next 100 years, while making Honors affordable and accessible to all.

Dean Ilse-Mari Lee