BOSTON COLLEGE

Boston College was founded in 1863 by the Society of Jesus to serve the sons of Boston's Irish immigrants. Today, it is one of the foremost Catholic universities in the nation, with a coeducational enrollment of 14,500 undergraduate and graduate students, drawn from 50 states and more than 90 countries.

The growth Boston College has experienced has not been just in size, but also in stature and diversity. Today, it is ranked among the top 40 national universities by US News & World Report. Its Connell School of Nursing and Lynch School of Education are listed among the nation's top 20 graduate programs, also by US News, while its Graduate School of Social Work is among the top 25, its Law School among the top 30 and its Carroll School of Management MBA program among the top 45. Boston College also is among the nation's most selective universities, with more than 22,000 applications for approximately 2,200 seats in the freshman Class of 2008. Its endowment of more than $1 billion is among the nation's 40 largest.

After more than a century of growth and evolution, Boston College holds fast to the ideals that inspired its Jesuit founders. The University today remains focused on its mission of helping students to develop their minds and talents while providing them with the motivation and compassion to use those talents in the service of others.

"Deeply rooted in its Catholic and Jesuit origins, Boston College offers an education that is distinctive in spirit and content, that is doubly rich with the best of human thought and with the profound insights of faith," writes Reverend William P. Leahy, SJ, who assumed the presidency of Boston College in 1996. "We believe that Boston College provides a transforming experience for young men and women."

A continued expression of this philosophy, based on the Jesuit principle of cura personalis, or care for the individual, is the faculty's dedication to teaching. BC faculty members have been honored for their teaching by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Education, while the University's overall commitment to teaching has been ranked among the nation's top 20, also by US News & World Report.

A Boston College education focuses not only on intellectual development, but also on personal, spiritual and physical development. As a result, students are asked to use their abilities, education and acquired skills to help others in need. Each year, 1,500 Boston College students provide more than 80,000 hours of volunteer service from Boston to Belize. In addition, nearly 2,000 students take part in retreats and spiritual formation activities annually.

Today, the Boston College motto "ever to excel" also extends to a broad array of extracurricular activities and opportunities ranging from sports to the arts. Athletics is integral to the University's focus on the development of the whole person in body as well as in mind and spirit. BC offers 34 men's and women's varsity sports, all of which compete at the NCAA Division I level, and annually has one of the highest graduation rates in Division IA.

BC is home to a wide variety of resources that enrich intellectual and cultural life beyond the campus gates. Among these are the Jesuit Institute; the Center for Ignatian Spirituality; the Boisi Center for Religion and American Public Life; the Social Welfare Research Institute; the Center for the Study of Testing, Evaluation and Educational Policy; the TIMSS & PIRLS International Study Center; the Burns Library of Rare Books and Special Collections; the Robsham Theater Arts Center; the McMullen Museum of Art; the Center for International Higher Education; the Center for Child, Family and Community Partnerships; the Center for Corporate Citizenship; the Center for Work and Family; the Irish Institute; the Center for Retirement Research, and Weston Observatory.