

Norwich Engineering School Launches Endowment

The David Crawford School of Engineering has established the Engineering Innovation & Leadership Endowment to meet the School's long-term and annual operating needs. Approved by President Schneider in late June, this is the first endowment launched by any of Norwich University's academic schools to augment Norwich's General Fund.

"This new endowment will prove beneficial in building future engineering leaders and in developing innovative academic programs," engineering dean Bruce Bowman announced on July 1, the first anniversary of his arrival at Norwich. "Engineering is transitioning from its historic Division model to a standard academic School model that entails more responsibility for us in attracting external funding, alumni engagement, and industry partnerships."

The engineering endowment is a key initiative in opening new opportunities for The David Crawford School to sustain academic excellence. The school is making curricular improvements and adding engineering management and entrepreneurship programs, hiring top-notch faculty in preparing for expected faculty retirements over the next five years, modernizing laboratories to prepare students for contemporary industry needs, recruiting students on a national scale to compensate for demographic forecasts portending diminished New England high school populations, and building industry partnerships despite the economic downturn.

The engineering dean will manage the Engineering Innovation & Leadership Endowment in consultation with the Engineering Visiting Committee, Norwich University's Office of Development and Alumni Affairs, and a council composed equally of faculty and students. The faculty-student council will convene each semester to review, evaluate, and prioritize faculty and student proposals submitted for funding. "It is absolutely essential that we empower students to participate in the engineering school's governance," Dean Bowman emphasizes.

The Dean will coordinate all fundraising campaigns and donor contacts with the Office of Development and Alumni Relations in accordance with prescribed university regulations. Alumni, friends and corporate partners may support the Engineering Innovation & Leadership Endowment through direct gifts to the endowment and through gifts made through estate planning. Paul Bova (NU '88), the Senior Development Officer representing the engineering school, adds that "The University's standard endowment policies will apply to all gifts to the endowment. Norwich University will recognize donors according to pre-established standards, such as Partridge Society membership."

All gifts to the Engineering Innovation & Leadership Endowment, no matter how modest, will assist Norwich's engineers in recruiting top-notch students, continuing to make curricular improvements, enhancing experiential learning through field work and summer jobs, supporting faculty development and excellence, upgrading facilities and equipment, and attracting visiting scholars.