

CORNELL COLLEGE

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

DATE: February 19, 2026

TO: Interested Members of the Class of 2026

FROM: Jan Thomas, 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: Sultan Ahmed Khan '21, Lauren Williams '22, Makayla Kelleher '23, Kimberly Maitland '24, and last year Nick Schwartz '25 began his three-year term. We invite you to apply to become the class of 2026 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 2026 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 New Trustee Onboarding sessions during their first year on the Board of Trustees.

The Board of Trustees holds three regular meetings per year (Fall, Winter, and Spring), all on campus. For the next two academic years, the Fall and Spring Meetings will occur around Homecoming (Fall) and Commencement (Spring). Trustees should plan on attending 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 2026 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 2026 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 2026 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.