

Letter from the President



FALL 2022

Dear Tulane Community:

Can glass on a beach be a Tulane value?

Yes, but let me explain.

When young alumni work with an interdisciplinary group of Tulane scientists to use sand made from recycled glass to restore Louisiana's coastlands, they are exemplifying Tulane values. Such unconventional innovation, collaboration and use of knowledge for good are among the core values our community recently identified as fundamental qualities that define our university or what we hope will define it as we strive ever forward.

Like the Glass Half Full effort mentioned above, our core values are different from most institutions. They are rooted in our unique history and location and are more than single-word descriptors. Tulane values are active and life-changing. They are like the spectacular oak trees that populate our campus. Rooted in research, public service and the free exchange of ideas, the branches of Tulane stretch far beyond the borders of campus, giving back to the New Orleans community and to the wider world, addressing the problems of today and providing comfort and shade for the centuries ahead.

As we were formalizing and disseminating our values, Tulane researcher Tracy Fischer published a groundbreaking study on COVID-19's effects on the central nervous system; creative writing professor Jesmyn Ward became the youngest person to receive the Library of Congress Prize for American Fiction; and our Naval ROTC program was singled out from among nearly 500 programs nationwide to receive the Department of Defense ROTC Educational Institution Partnership Excellence Award. These are just a few of numerous examples of Tulane values at work!



Our core values are
different from most
institutions. They are
rooted in our unique
history and location
and are more than
single-word descriptors.
Tulane values are active
and life-changing.

continued on page 3



Only the Transformative

COUNT THE COSTS: RACIAL INEQUITY was launched by The Albert LePage Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation at Tulane’s A. B. Freeman School of Business to fund projects aimed at identifying barriers Black, Indigenous and People of Color experience, the economic costs of those barriers and approaches to addressing them.

One study, sponsored by Count the Costs, identified barriers that patients from marginalized communities often face when they seek primary care appointments and how health care providers can address these inequities.

“Our grantees have begun important research on topics that are critical to more inclusive communities and a healthier overall economy,” said Rob Lalka, Albert R. LePage professor in business and executive director of the LePage Center.

The Count the Costs initiative was motivated by findings of the LePage Center’s 2020 Greater New Orleans Startup Report, which pointed to significant racial inequities in access to startup funding. This led to an effort across the Freeman School to understand inequities across the business community. After conversations and support from partners across the university, the Freeman School expanded the project to highlight the BIPOC experience in a wide range of areas, such as public health, housing and criminal justice, to gain a better understanding of how racial inequities impact the region’s economy.

ONLY THE BOLD

The Class of 2026 is already breaking records.

The class is the most selective and academically accomplished ever: the Office of Undergraduate Admission received 43,019 applications for admission for the Class of 2026 and offered admission to 8.4 percent of applicants.

In addition, the class of 2026 is the most diverse class ever with 30 percent of its members identifying as students of color — a 76 percent increase since 2016. The Class of 2026 also has the highest percentage of students identifying as Black or African American.



Leading for a Better Tomorrow

To be a Tulanian is not only to hope for a better tomorrow, but to work every day to bring it about. From researching new vaccines and treatments to studying ancient texts to building the cities of the future, Tulanians are helping advance society so we can all enjoy better healthcare, safer living conditions and a thriving and sustainable future.

Knowledge for Good

Tulane’s motto “Not for oneself, but for one’s own” means that the knowledge we seek is not knowledge exclusively for its own sake, but for the good of others. That good comes in many forms and includes the arts, the sciences, business, law, architecture and more – most often the good emerges from the combined efforts of the best experts in different fields.

Unconventional Innovation

With ingenuity and a growth mindset, we bring together bold and creative scholars, scientists and students who are committed to crossing, combining and redefining the boundaries that have separated fields and thwarted true innovation. Through our unique educational and research vision, we employ unconventional innovation to achieve results that matter the most.

Inclusive Community

We are committed to creating a community rooted in equity, diversity and inclusion. Recognizing our common humanity, our shared destiny and the value each of us brings to the table is not only the right thing to do, it also defines a great university and hastens us toward a future that benefits and celebrates everyone.

Collaborative Engagement

Tulane is rooted in the idea that looking outward leads to impactful, real-world solutions that bring positive change for others. Our contributions to society are evident in the lives we transform and problems we solve. We are driven by knowing the good we can accomplish for our community and our world.

Inspiring Excellence

We are purpose-driven and intentional in everything we do. Our distinctive attitude, grit and passion inspire our commitment to excellence. As we continue to grow and prepare the next generation of leaders, we task ourselves to seek more, do more and be more.

Tulane’s values are not proscriptive or static, nor do they change from day to day – rather they are the essence of who we are and the sum of the difference we strive to make. They unite us, inspire us in the face of challenges and embolden us to think, to learn, to act, to lead and to hope.

Mike Fitz

**Tulane’s values
are not proscriptive
or static, nor
do they change
from day to day
– rather they are
the essence of who
we are and the sum
of the difference
we strive to make.
They unite us,
inspire us in the
face of challenges
and embolden us
to think, to learn,
to act, to lead
and to hope.**



Learn more about the *Only the Audacious* campaign and how you can be involved at audacious.tulane.edu.



Only the Pioneering

Tulane opened the **INNOVATION INSTITUTE** in downtown New Orleans to bring to market the ideas and discoveries of Tulane faculty, researchers, staff and students, as well as local innovators.

The institute heralds the “redevelopment and reimagining of our downtown campus, which promises to transform not only Tulane University but the city of New Orleans and its economy,” said President Michael A. Fitts at its dedication in July. The ceremony took place at Thirteen15, the new residential and retail development on Tulane’s downtown campus that will house the Innovation Institute until it moves to the redeveloped Charity Hospital building within the next few years.

The generosity of donors was instrumental to launching the institute, especially Robert and Kikie Priddy, who made a lead gift for the Robert L. Priddy Innovation Lab.

Kimberly Gramm leads the institute as the inaugural David and Marion Mussafer Chief Innovation and Entrepreneurship Officer. Gramm, who came to Tulane from Texas Tech University, has a comprehensive background in new venture creation, developing university competitive funding opportunities, building innovation ecosystems, developing deep technology commercialization programs and engaging the community and industry as partners.

Tulane University

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

6823 ST. CHARLES AVENUE · NEW ORLEANS, LA 70118-5698

504.865.5201 · MIKE@TULANE.EDU

ONLY THE INNOVATIVE

John Sabo, director of the Tulane ByWater Institute and professor in the Department of River-Coastal Science and Engineering at the School of Science and Engineering, is finding solutions to problems on a global scale.

He believes the answer to the planet’s water problems is using goal-oriented interventional science — what he calls “clinical trials for planetary health.” An example of one of Sabo’s clinical trials is using natural infrastructure to meet modern-day challenges (such as storing floodwaters in aquifers for use in times of drought). For Sabo, it is a question of being courageous, experimenting and collecting data on what works and what doesn’t. One of his goals is the creation of a national lab for the Mississippi River, which could be used to study the health of the world’s fourth-largest river. Results from studies conducted at the lab could also inform river basin health around the globe.

“When you do public scholarship, it has to be motivated by a mission that’s bigger than just yourself,” he said. “For me, it’s about translating scholarship into lasting change for the world at a time when the world most needs solutions.”