

December 22, 2016

Dear Friend:

Though the winter cold has finally settled in upon our beautiful campus, it is warm inside classrooms and offices as students take their final exams and staff and faculty are setting plans in motion for projects in the year ahead. It has been a successful and busy semester both on-campus and beyond, with events taking place far and wide, and new projects developing and blossoming to fruition within weeks. There is good news to report as we round out the first half of the 2016-2017 academic year. During the past few months, many of you have kept me up-to-date with your news and views. I hope you know how good it is to stay in contact with friends such as you.

Watching and reading the daily news, it is evident that there is a battle for power going on in our country. As we witness this struggle, it is clear that the education offered at Hillsdale College is more important than ever to those coming into adulthood and to others of all ages who enroll in Hillsdale College's online courses. Standing in high-relief in the landscape of the future, it is also evident that successful efforts to restore classical K-12 education are essential. In answer to this call to action, the Barney Charter School Initiative forges ahead, riding a wave of mounting enthusiasm for a return to an education that educates rather than indoctrinates. As a wave of change rolls across the land, newly elected and returning members of Congress look ahead to the challenge of a New Year under a new administration. And the educating reaches to all levels. With a return to a Constitutional republic as its long-term goal, the Coors Foundation Challenge for Congressional Outreach Endowment Fund will expand the educational horizons of both elected officials and their staff at the frontline of liberty in Washington, D.C.

More about these important projects to follow in this letter. However, for now let us count our mutual blessings as friends united by a love of country; the belief in a Hillsdale education as a tool for righting the wrongs in America; and the wonderful promise of a bright future for Hillsdale College students. There is no doubt that friends such as you are an integral part of all that we do, no matter the distance or time apart. Just like family, our bond endures beyond the limits of time and space. As we give thanks for the miracles celebrated each day but especially during Christmastide, we thank you for your ongoing generosity, friendship, and goodwill.

The Class of 2020 Sets the Bar on Achievement!

The Class of 2020 this year clearly has their sights set upon success, with this incoming class standing as one of the best qualified to date. I have had the opportunity to get to know some of the incoming freshmen, and can vouch that they are indeed outstanding young men and women bound for glory—as long as they stick with the tenets of hard work and dedication required to earn a Hillsdale College degree. Here are some facts about these courageous young men and women who have just begun their four years of academic rigor at Hillsdale College:

- The Class of 2020 consists of 381 freshmen, comprised of 183 men and 198 women.
- They have traveled to Hillsdale from all corners of the United States and the globe, with 40 states and seven foreign countries represented. Michiganders account for 34 percent of this group of high achievers.

- To add some perspective to these numbers, the overall count of full-time enrolled students is 1,473 (731 men and 726 women), representing 48 states, with just under 34 percent of the overall student body from Michigan. Twelve foreign countries overall are represented, and traveling to Hillsdale are students from Australia, Canada, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Germany, Greece, Israel, Kenya, Korea, Spain, and the United Kingdom.
- The acceptance rate for this year's entering class was 45 percent from a pool of 2,118 applicants. Last year the acceptance rate was 50 percent from a pool of 1,859 applicants. Of this year's accepted group, 44 percent enrolled at Hillsdale College this fall.
- The odds are good that these entering students will return next fall, with an overall school retention rate hovering around 97 percent.
- Meanwhile at the lofty levels of graduate education, the [Van Andel Graduate School of Statesmanship](#) welcomed seven M.A. and three Ph.D. new candidates, bringing the total to 40 graduate school students, consisting of 12 M.A. and 28 Ph.D. candidates. It is notable that four of this year's M.A. graduates will be pursuing their Ph.Ds. at the Van Andel Graduate School.
- It is good news that the launch of the new Hillsdale College website at www.hillsdale.edu heralded an updated and enhanced experience for potential students, including the possibility of scheduling a visit to Hillsdale, virtually exploring the campus, and learning about the cost to attend Hillsdale as well as the type of privately funded financial aid available.

Please encourage potential students to visit the hillsdale.edu website and click on the Admissions link. They should be made aware that "Visit Days" have been scheduled for 2017. Some of these on-campus events are shortened visits for sophomores and juniors and extended to full-day visits for seniors. The schedule for the visit days may be found by clicking on "[Visit Campus](#)" at hillsdale.edu/admissions main page on the Hillsdale website.

You may also send information about prospective students, such as name, address, and year of high school graduation to the Admissions Office by contacting mbraman@hillsdale.edu, by postal mail to the attention of the Senior Director of Admissions Zachary Miller at the Hillsdale College address, or phone the Admissions Office directly at (517) 607-2227. You will be doing your young friends a favor by helping them to open a door that could make a big impact on their lives.

Don't Let Cost be a Factor!

I always advise potential students not to allow cost to be a factor in choosing their college—or the inclement weather in Michigan for that matter. Here are some important facts to share with those interested in attending Hillsdale College:

A total of approximately \$28 million in financial aid is slated to be awarded this academic year, with the average award of \$17,031 in scholarships and loans applied toward a tuition of \$24,670. Hillsdale Tradition awards are an important piece of the scholarship puzzle, containing both work and volunteer components and requiring student recipients to remain in good academic standing. The total cost to attend Hillsdale College this year, including a 19-meal plan, room, and fees is \$35,722. Considering that the *net cost of attending* Hillsdale College is \$68,482 per student for this fiscal year, Hillsdale College represents a "bargain" in higher education. The average cost to attend a school such as Hillsdale College—if there were any to compare it to, that is—is around \$60,000 to \$65,000 a year. That said, it is difficult to find a comparable school that offers an average class size of 14, a student-to-faculty ratio of 10:1, and a 63-hour classical liberal arts core curriculum, and also teaches the Constitution as a required course. The field narrows even more, when searching for a college that accepts no form of direct or indirect federal or state taxpayer monies. And did I mention the weather as a positive factor? The winter cold makes for good studying and forges character. At least that is what I keep telling myself, as we are experiencing temperatures in the teens during this time of year.

To fund a scholarship at Hillsdale College, is to make an investment in not only the potential of a Hillsdale student(s), but also the equivalent of depositing in a savings account in the name of

America's future. With that in mind, the following are the costs to annually fund or endow various levels of a scholarship for Hillsdale students:

YEAR	TUITION	HALF-TUITION	QUARTER-TUITION
2016/17	\$ 24,670	\$ 12,335	\$ 6,167.50
To endow:	\$493,400	\$246,700	\$123,350
2017/18*	\$ 25,660	\$ 12,830	\$ 6,415
To endow:	\$513,200	\$256,600	\$128,300
2018/19*	\$ 26,690	\$ 13,345	\$ 6,672.50
To endow:	\$533,800	\$266,900	\$133,450
2019/20*	\$ 27,760	\$ 13,880	\$ 6,940
To endow:	\$555,200	\$277,600	\$138,800

**Projected*

Sometimes scholarships are created as a legacy to a loved one or part of a planned gift. Others are spontaneous contributions to existing scholarships. An example of this type of generosity was the recent visit of a guest who came all the way from Utah to attend the second CCA seminar of the academic year. The topic was free market economics, and a full slate of daytime activities ensured that our guests connected with Hillsdale students, staff, and faculty. During the student presentation on the 1844 Society—an on-campus philanthropic student group—the students shared that funds donated by their peers were applied to the Ransom Dunn Scholarship. This scholarship, named after a hero integral to the founding of Hillsdale, was established to assist current students who are in dire need of funds in order to continue to attend Hillsdale College. Upon hearing of this scholarship, our guest from Utah decided that he would contribute \$1,500 toward this scholarship. It is my good fortune to meet and come to know such generous individuals, including friends like you whose generous gifts of time, wisdom, and investing your hard-earned savings in Hillsdale College are both an inspiration and a joy to witness. To learn more about establishing a scholarship at Hillsdale College, please contact John Cervini at (517) 607-2461.

The Department of Education Redefining Hillsdale College

It only took a year for the United States Department of Education to acknowledge that Hillsdale College is indeed a four-year institution of higher learning that awards bachelor's degrees as well as Master's and Ph.Ds. It was during the fall of 2015 that I wrote about the [College Scorecard](#), an online-accessed, one-stop-shopping concept designed by the federal government to assist students in assessing and choosing colleges. For some reason(s), the federal government didn't list Hillsdale College as a bona fide degree-granting college or at all on their Scorecard list, since they were under the impression that Hillsdale College was a "predominately certificate degree-granting institution" similar to the Hillsdale Beauty College. That excuse fell flat in January of 2016, when the Department of Education added 700 institutions to the Scorecard website that awarded certificates.

After substantial research by the Provost's Office, it turns out that Hillsdale was not recognized as a degree-issuing college because the *Scorecard...site does not include institutions that do not participate in the federal financial aid programs, including Hillsdale*. As of October 31, 2016, the Department of Education acknowledged its error, and Hillsdale College is now listed as a four-year institution, offering actual degrees. This is *not on the Scorecard website* however, but may be found on the [College Navigator website](#), which is published by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES). We hope that, with the changing of the guard on Capitol Hill, one day soon Hillsdale College will actually appear on the federal Scorecard website alongside our higher education counterparts so that potential students may make better-informed choices when it comes to choosing a college.

The Hillsdale Difference

During Homecoming Weekend, it was good to meet—or in some cases reconnect—with fellow alumni, who run the gamut of occupations and backgrounds. The one thing that the alumni of all ages hold in common is a unique spark that marks them as individualistic and capable of thinking and doing beyond the status quo. From the more recent grads who are shining like new pennies to older

alumni who are taking on the patina of fine silver, it was fun to hear their stories about their time at Hillsdale College. In the ensuing month, as the election approached and talk of safe spaces and trigger issues reached a peak of ridiculousness, some of the alumni and friends of the College wondered if their Hillsdale College was experiencing some of the same issues as other colleges and universities. And so here is an update on what we continue to experience here on the Hillsdale campus as compared with other schools.

First of all, while students on other campuses are burning flags and college presidents are banning the U.S. flag from their campuses, Hillsdale students may be found gathering around the flagpole in commemoration of those who serve and have served this country in the armed services. Unlike the NFL football player who refused to stand for “The Star-Spangled Banner,” every Hillsdale student and athlete alike stand tall to recite the Pledge of Allegiance at campus events or to sing the national anthem before a sporting event. When it comes to “safe spaces,” the entire Hillsdale College campus is a “safe space” where individuals feel free to express their political, social, and religious beliefs without recrimination. If these same students expressed their conservative views on a typical campus, they would most certainly be ridiculed and possibly expelled. It seems that those who rally and demonstrate for freedom of speech are the ones most likely to quash ideas that don’t agree with their idea of what is politically correct.

While students on other campuses are taking classes on subjects such as Wasting Time on the Internet, How to Win a Beauty Contest, Tree Climbing, or The American Vacation, Hillsdale students are learning time-tested truths. In fact, this fall marked the final rollout of the core curriculum in its entirety. Four more courses were added this semester, bringing the total to 63 hours of required core courses. Here is a quick overview of the Hillsdale College core curriculum:

The Humanities: Five, three-hour courses comprised of Classical Logic and Rhetoric, two Great Books courses, Western Philosophical Tradition, and Western Theological Tradition.

Fine Arts: One, three-hour course on either art, music, or theatre.

Western Literature: One, three-hour course on either the Great Books, Greco-Roman literature, or Theatre in History.

The Natural Sciences and Mathematics: Four, three-hour courses (one from each discipline) in biology, chemistry, mathematics, and physics.

The Social Sciences: Three, three-hour classes consisting of Western Heritage, American Heritage, and the U.S. Constitution, and one, three-hour course to be chosen from economics, psychology, or sociology.

Modern and Classical Languages: Twelve hours total of a modern (French, German, Spanish) or Classical (Greek or Latin) language.

Senior Year Capstone Course: One to three hours.

Sport Studies: One, two-hour course in Physical Wellness and Dynamics is required.

Center for Constructive Alternatives (CCA): Students are required to complete one CCA seminar during their undergraduate years.

It is recommended that students enroll in core courses throughout their four years of study at Hillsdale College. The exception for this is Politics 101, which most students complete by the end of their sophomore year. While completing this rigorous core, students choose among 38 majors and seven pre-professional programs to concentrate their studies into their field of interest. For further details please refer to the [College catalog](#) that may be found online under [“Academic Resources,”](#) or we will be happy to send you a copy of this year’s catalog.

It is clear that for Hillsdale students education takes center stage during their four years of enrollment. It is good to know that a place like Hillsdale College exists and thrives, and does so completely free of federal or state taxpayer monies with the friendship of those such as you.

Spreading the Good Word about the Barney Charter School Initiative

Earlier this month on December 6, the first-ever, tele-Townhall was held and called together over 7,500 individuals in what is best described as a mega-conference call. The subject was the good work of the Barney Charter School Initiative and how we can work together to encourage and support

the establishment of classical K-12 charter schools across the country. Participating in the call were individuals who phoned in from the 12 states where schools have either been established or will be established. They asked questions and listened to the answers from Hillsdale President Larry P. Arnn during the call, which ran just over an hour. The tele-Townhall was moderated by the Director of the Dow Journalism Program John Miller, and California Congressman Tom McClintock stopped by during the last 15 minutes to discuss with Dr. Arnn and the audience the recent presidential election. Should you wish to listen to the Townhall, you may do so by visiting www.hillsdale.edu/townhall, and clicking on the audio file link. We may be holding future tele-Townhalls on this topic and other subjects. To be included in these calls, send an e-mail to associates@hillsdale.edu, and we will note your request to be invited to join future tele-Townhalls.

During the call, the participants learned that the [College's Barney Charter School Initiative](#) lends a helping hand to grassroots groups establishing a K-12 classical liberal arts school in their communities. There are currently 16 classical charter schools that have been established under the guidance of the Barney Charter School Initiative. These schools educate 7,827 students across the country. Three of these 16 schools opened this September at the following locations:

- [Seven Oaks Classical School](#), Ellettsville, Indiana; first-semester enrollment of 160 students.
- [Founders Classical Academy](#) in Schertz, Texas; first-semester enrollment of 348 students.
- [Livingston Classical Academy](#) in Livingston, Michigan; first-semester enrollment of 135 students.

Looking forward to the 2017-2018 academic year, there are as many as eight schools that will open their doors in the 2017 or possibly 2018 academic year. These potential school openings are in Gallup, New Mexico; Traverse City, Michigan; Chicago, Illinois; Clay County and Melbourne, Florida; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Toledo, Ohio; and Alvin, Texas. The support provided by the capable BCSI staff, directed by Phillip Kilgore, includes assisting with school founding efforts by:

- Educating the school board during its formation;
- Assisting with the drafting of the charter application;
- Advising on academic program design including curriculum recommendations;
- Providing guidance on Administrative policies;
- Offering recommendations for principal candidates; and
- Providing summer training of the teachers as well as coaching and evaluating once school is in session.

The foundation and success of a classical liberal arts charter school depends upon a solid curriculum that focuses on the following elements:

- Western Tradition
- American Tradition
- Phonics and grammar
- Latin
- Object standards
- Moral virtue
- Balance among studies of literature, history, math, and science.
- Reasonable use of technology

Once a school is up and running, the work continues with weekly or bi-weekly coaching calls with school leaders, visits to schools, and summer coaching and training courses. It should be noted that Hillsdale graduates are sought after as teachers and administrators at these classical schools. As of September, 2016, there are 65 Hillsdale graduates serving in both teaching and staff roles at these outstanding schools. This number is sure to increase since a Classical School Job Fair will take place February 22-24, 2017, on the Hillsdale campus. This job fair is well-attended by both private and charter classical schools as well as our students seeking either internships as juniors or jobs as seniors.

Since the Barney Charter School Initiative's beginning in 2009, I think you will agree that impressive inroads have been made in K-12 education. With a goal of 50 schools by 2022, there is

more work to be done. The approximate cost to assist a school in becoming established is \$196,000, and this figure increases for inner-city schools. Through the generosity of the Barney Family Foundation and gifts from generous individuals who believe in righting the wrongs in American education, the initiative continues unabated. This fall two anonymous challenges were announced that will match gifts made toward the Barney Charter School Endowment on a \$1-for-\$1 basis up to \$1.15 million. These challenges exhibit the firm commitment that Hillsdale benefactors are willing to make on behalf of restoring and reviving K-12 education. There is little more important than teaching our youth to carry the torch of liberty into the next century and beyond.

For further information on Hillsdale College's Barney Charter School Initiative, please visit www.hillsdalecharter.com, or e-mail charterschool@hillsdale.edu, or phone (517) 607-2317. Should you have questions about the funding of the charter school initiative, please contact John Cervini at (517) 607-2670 or e-mail jcervini@hillsdale.edu.

The Leaders of Tomorrow Become the Leaders of Today

The phrase "educating the leaders of tomorrow" was one that I used with some frequency in my first years of writing on behalf of Hillsdale College. Those words pretty much sum up what Hillsdale College is about, since leadership is at a premium in our country and the world-at-large. During the College's 173-year history, there have been many leaders who graduated from Hillsdale College with prominent roles in business, politics, education, and business. The legacy continues as the election of 2016 brought news that Hillsdale graduates continue to make inroads as legislative leaders. The following is a list of Hillsdale alumni who were elected or re-elected in 2016:

Tim Leonard, '83, was re-elected to the Colorado State House, representing the 25th District. He defeated his Democrat opponent Tammy Story by receiving 51 percent of the vote representing a winning margin of 1,000 votes.

Tom Morrison, '97, ran unopposed as state representative for the 54th District in Illinois. Representative Morrison has served as a state representative since 2010.

Steve Johnson, who attended Hillsdale in 2014 and 2015, was elected as the Michigan State Representative for the 72nd District, defeating Democrat Steve Shoemaker with 55 percent of the vote.

David Viviano, '94, won re-election to the Michigan Supreme Court. Justice Viviano led his opponent by nearly one million votes. As a result of the 2016 election, Republican-nominated justices maintain a 5-2 majority on the highest court in Michigan.

Hans Zeiger, '07, ran for the Washington State Senate after choosing not to run for re-election in the 25th district, which he had represented since 2010. Hans defeated his Democrat opponent in the run for state senator with 58 percent of the vote. You may remember Hans as the Eagle Scout who wrote *Get Off My Honor: The Assault on the Boy Scouts of America* in 2005, and *Reagans Children: Taking Back the City on the Hill* in 2006.

Given Hillsdale graduates grounding in what is good, true, and beautiful, it is for certain that there will be more graduates who run for and win public office in the future, lending evidence that we are indeed "educating the leaders of tomorrow" at Hillsdale College.

The Latest News for Hillsdale College Events in 2016-2017

The list of upcoming [Hillsdale College events](#) in the year ahead is a like a roadmap tracing the extent of Hillsdale's impact across the country. During the 2015-2016 academic year, a total of 87 events were held on campus, which includes Homecoming, Parents' Weekend, the annual 50-year Reunion, scholarship meetings between donors and their student recipients, Pulliam Fellow lectures, and CCA seminars. The off-campus events send staff and faculty—including Dr. Arnn and John Cervini—to meet friends far and wide, with over 117 various events held off campus in 2015-2016. This category includes Hillsdale receptions, which feature Dr. Arnn as the speaker, Hometown Luncheons, Freedom Forums, National Leadership Seminars (NLS), the annual cruise, and President's Club dinners. This is to name just a few of the means by which the Hillsdale message is shared with those both familiar and unfamiliar with Hillsdale College. Please take a moment to review the enclosed list of upcoming events and decide to join us at one or more venues. Be sure to share the names and addresses of those who might enjoy joining our circle of friends or receiving a free subscription to [Imprimis](#).

Coming up in the immediate future for Hillsdale events will be the [Freedom Forum](#) in Santa Clara, California. Scheduled for January 10-11, 2017, this day-and-a-half program will address the topic of Freedom and Western Civilization, with lectures by Professors Kevin Portteus and Gary Wolfram as well as Provost and Professor of English David Whalen. This will be followed with several receptions and luncheons in Florida, and then a stellar [National Leadership Seminar](#) in Phoenix, Arizona, February 14-15, 2017.

The first on-campus event of the New Year will be the CCA seminar on the topic of "[The American West](#)," taking place January 29-February 1, 2017. This CCA will be followed on March 5-9, 2017, by the fourth and final CCA seminar of this academic year, featuring the [films of Orson Welles](#). Remember, it is never too early to sign up for Hillsdale's popular [Lifelong Learning Seminars](#) (LLS) (formerly known as Hillsdale Hostels). In addition to the seven on-campus LLS and two programs at Rockwell Lake Lodge, there will be two mini-seminars that will use the [Kirby Center](#) as home base. The first of these offered will be on the topic of *The Federalist Papers*, March 29-April 1, 2017 and the second will discuss "Churchill and the World Wars," November 8-11, 2017.

Should you wish to make sure you receive an invitation to any of the Hillsdale events listed on the enclosed schedule, the phone numbers and e-mail addresses for the various event staff contacts are on the back of the schedule. We look forward to seeing you soon!

Every Day, Every Season, A Time to Give Thanks

My first job at Hillsdale College, over 18 years ago, was as a proposal and grant writer. Prior to this I had worked in the States and abroad in the for-profit sector as public relations and sales management, living and working in more time zones than I care to remember. My first direct supervisor at Hillsdale College was Eva Martin, who had the patience and wisdom to school me in the rules of representing Hillsdale, which also stand one in good stead in living life: always tell the truth, stay in integrity, find your voice, respect your audience, and do your best. It turns out that joining the Hillsdale staff was an opportunity to earn my second Hillsdale College degree—this time majoring in how to raise funds and awareness about our great school. After 30-some years, Ms. Martin is going to retire. I thank her for bearing with me all these years, since you see, she is the deft hand that edits these letters. Eva fits this time-consuming task in amongst her myriad of other roles of writing, research and organizing. Like many longtime employees before her, she is passing the baton—or the ink pen—to Katie Sorensen, an intelligent and talented person, who just happens to be a Hillsdale graduate. I am happy for both of them and proud of the work we have accomplished over the years.

And so it is, and so it goes, as time wends on and we express thanks for the many forms of grace in our path and that of others. As I finish this letter, I am looking ahead to the President's Christmas Party, which is attended by faculty, staff, and their spouses or guests. It is quite a celebration, with a delicious meal, plenty of good company, and the opportunity to applaud our co-workers for their years of service. The staying power of Hillsdale employees is a testimony as to the commitment and partnership found at Hillsdale College. As a friend of Hillsdale, you exhibit the same commitment. It is this type of service that breathes life into the motto, "Pursuing Truth and Defending Liberty Since 1844." We wish you a very Merry Christmas and the good health to enjoy life's blessings in the New Year.

Sincerely,



Kathleen Ruddy, '82
Director of Associates and Special Projects

KR:rkw

Enclosures