



# Investing in the Future

Why We Fundraise at Albuquerque Academy



ALBUQUERQUE  
ACADEMY

# THE ACADEMY MISSION

We believe that children’s lives change when their natural passion for learning is nurtured and transformed into habits of life-long learning and reflection. We believe that the world changes as these children learn to serve country and community with wisdom, conviction, and compassion.

In light of these beliefs,

- We serve students of talent and character, offering them an education that broadens their perspectives, sharpens their minds, strengthens their bodies, and engages their hearts.
- We commit to creating a caring, inclusive, and just community, using the geography and culture of our home in the Southwest to enrich our educational programs and to foster creativity, personal balance, and a connection to the natural world.
- We devote our resources to ensure economic accessibility to our students and to support the wider community through outreach and community service.
- We entrust this mission to our graduates and successors as we preserve our resources and serve the generations of children to come.



The Academy’s remarkable growth was made possible largely through the transformational gift of Albert G. Simms, a New Mexico financier and rancher, and his wife, Ruth Hanna McCormick Simms. In the early 1960s, Mr. and Mrs. Simms gave (in trust) to the Academy more than 12,000 acres of undeveloped land and 7,500 shares of Albuquerque National Bank (now Bank of America) stock. This gift, now supplemented by the philanthropy of generous and grateful recipients of the Simms legacy, enables the Academy to provide students with the highest quality education in a beautiful and uplifting environment.



*“Albuquerque Academy is a school that honors its past while embracing the future of education. We give our students access to opportunities and experiences that both challenge and inspire them, preparing them for a world we can’t fully imagine.”*

**Julianne Puente**  
Head of School

## STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

Board of Trustees’ Multi-year Institutional Plan

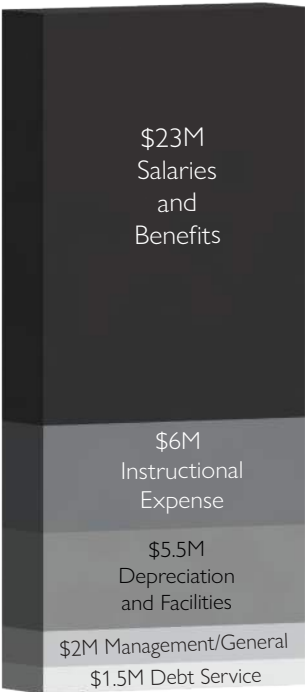
**LEAD** with curiosity in how we learn and teach by fostering academic excellence and strengthening meaningful relationships.

**ENGAGE** our past, present, and future as we create inclusive ways of connecting and thriving.

**INVEST** in our people, campus, and communities.

**GROW** our resources to expand our reach and support a sustainable future.

Operating Income (\$38M)      Operating Expense (\$38M)



As of Fiscal Year 2025. Rounded figures; audited amounts may vary.

# WHY WE FUNDRAISE

Albuquerque Academy's mission is to prepare students for lives of purpose, accomplishment, and service. Delivering on that mission requires resources that extend well beyond tuition revenue. The short answer to the question "Why do we fundraise?" is "We have to!"

While tuition at the Academy is our biggest source of income, it does not (and is not intended to) cover the full cost of an Academy education. In fact, each student's experience is underwritten by the school's robust endowment and the generosity of donors who believe in the power of education to transform lives. This gap, between tuition and actual costs, reflects our commitment to making an Academy education more accessible and affordable to a broad and talented student body, regardless of socioeconomic background.

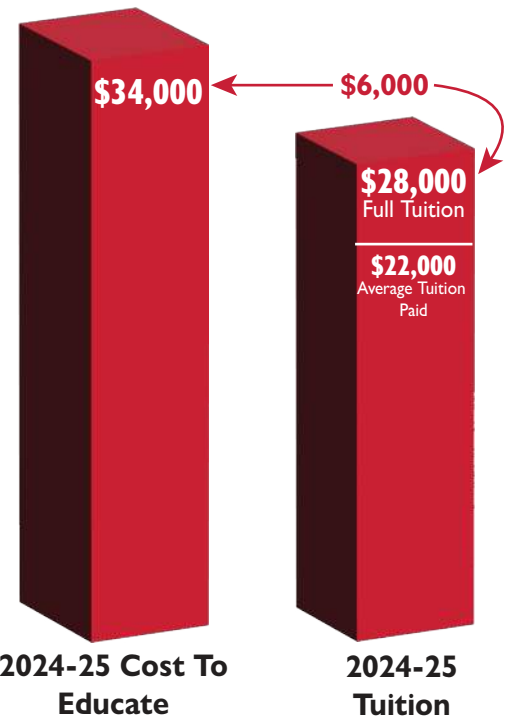
**Philanthropic support strengthens every aspect of the Academy experience.**

**TUITION ASSISTANCE** fulfills our promise to welcome students from all backgrounds, ensuring accessibility now and in the future.

**FACULTY EXCELLENCE** ensures we can attract, support, and retain the most talented educators.

**INNOVATIVE PROGRAMS** sustain the breadth and depth of opportunities in academics, community service, arts, and athletics, with 39 new classes added to the curriculum over the last four years.

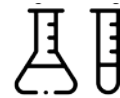
**CAMPUS STEWARDSHIP** maintains and enhances the spaces where learning and growth take place.



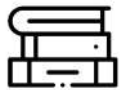
*As of Fiscal Year 2025. Rounded figures; audited amounts may vary.*



**\$5.3 Million**  
in Annual Tuition  
Assistance Grants



**#1**  
High School for STEM  
in New Mexico  
(niche.com)



**17**  
National Merit Scholar  
Semifinalists  
Class of 2025



**22**  
AP Courses



**57%**  
Students of Color



**100+**  
Extracurriculars



**209**  
Sports State  
Championships



**72%**  
Faculty with  
Advanced Degrees



**45**  
6th Grade  
Sending Schools



# FUNDRAISING GOALS

## Balancing Today's Excellence with Tomorrow's Promise

A healthy institution requires a dual-focus budget. Our \$2 million annual fundraising goal is divided into two distinct, vital pipelines:

- **Securing the Present (\$1.25M):** Unrestricted gifts provide the flexible funding needed to meet our annual operating budget. This ensures our classrooms are fully equipped, our faculty is competitively compensated, and our daily operations remain seamless without over-burdening families with steep tuition hikes.
- **Securing the Future (\$750K):** Restricted and endowed gifts allow us to fund specific long-term projects and grow our endowment. A healthy endowment provides long-term stability by generating reliable income, reducing dependence on tuition and annual fundraising, and helping the institution navigate economic uncertainty.

## ACADEMY FUND & ANNUAL GIVING

Given the importance of a strong annual fund, each year we ask our full community to join us in giving to the Academy Fund during four key times:

- **Giving TuesdAAy**, the international day of giving that falls on the Tuesday after Thanksgiving
- **At the end of the calendar year**, a potential benefit for those who would like to lower tax implications
- **Spring Day of Giving**, an Academy-specific giving day intended to demonstrate school spirit and financial commitment (e.g., class gift challenges, matching gift incentives, etc.)
- **At the end of the fiscal year**, providing a final opportunity for donors to help us meet our annual fundraising goals

## MULTI-YEAR PLEDGES AND MAJOR GIFTS

Fundraising from the four annual giving opportunities typically provides about half of the Academy's annual fundraising needs. The advancement team, board of trustees, and school leadership work on major-gift fundraising and multi-year pledges year-round. A combination of all these initiatives supports the school's financial success.

Scan here to make a gift online.



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