Students choose Penn State for the opportunity to work with faculty members who can stimulate their own potential to succeed, and our reputation as an institution depends upon the achievements of our faculty and their commitment to both creating and sharing the knowledge that shapes our world. Academic institutions compete not only with each other but also with business, industry, and government for this kind of leader, and endowed funds can make the difference.

A named position or fellowship is a prestigious honor, and the resources that are made available to the recipient are even more important. By providing additional funds for research projects and course development, faculty endowments allow academic stars to take their scholarship to the next level and integrate discovery and teaching.

The University is currently able to offer endowed positions to just 9 percent of our tenured and tenure-track faculty members, however, and increasing faculty support is a top Penn State priority. To ensure that our University can compete for the scientists, scholars, and educators with the greatest potential to contribute to our institution and our nation, Penn State is partnering with our alumni and friends to create new funds for faculty during the critical first ten years of their careers.

**Matching Funds, Enduring Support**

Through the Faculty Endowment Challenge, private donors can leverage a 1:2 match from the University for commitments that establish Early Career Professorships. These endowments typically require a minimum commitment of $500,000, but through the challenge, private donors may establish new Early Career Professorships in any of Penn State's academic units with a commitment of $334,000, equivalent to approximately 2/3 of the minimum level required. The University will commit the remaining 1/3 of the necessary funds, approximately $166,000, from unrestricted endowment resources. Donors may fulfill their commitment with cash payments over a period of up to five years. When the donor's commitment has been fulfilled, Penn State will transfer its matching support to the endowment fund, and the position can then be awarded to a faculty member in the designated unit, as illustrated in the diagram on the following page:

“The quality of our faculty determines the value of the education we offer to students and greatly impacts their potential for career success. Our alumni and friends can help us to support both innovation and leadership through gifts to create Early Career Professorships. Thanks to the matching funds of the Faculty Endowment Challenge, there has never been a better—or more important—moment to invest in the ambition and talent of our emerging faculty stars.”

—President Eric J. Barron
Other Important Facts about the Faculty Endowment Challenge

- Only new Early Career Professorships are eligible to receive the University match. Contributions to existing endowments, or gifts to endow other types of faculty positions, will be critical to meeting our faculty support goals, but they are not eligible for this program.
- Donors may designate their endowments for a specific department, college, or campus.
- Deferred gifts, including bequests, are not eligible to receive the University match.
- The program will end when all the matching funds have been fully designated to specific endowments.

The Faculty Endowment Challenge represents an unprecedented opportunity for Penn State's alumni and friends to join with the University in supporting extraordinary faculty, and the Early Career Professorships established through the Faculty Endowment Challenge will be vital to ensuring that Penn State students continue to study with the finest educators and researchers.

Contact

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