AT PORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY our professors lead innovative research projects with global impact. They collaborate with community organizations. And they provide dynamic instruction, in the classroom and beyond. At each step and with every breakthrough, they bring our students along with them, providing real-world experience on topics that range from early childhood education to supply chain management.

We provide our renowned faculty with the latest technology, the freedom of intellectual and academic exploration and the opportunity to shape the curriculum. Our faculty and staff, in turn, play a vital role in our pursuit of academic excellence.

Philanthropic gifts to support PSU faculty are wise investments that will impact the university, our graduates and their employers for years to come. At Portland State, we believe that knowledge works best when it serves the community.
Professors at Portland State University are prized for their expertise, achievements and passion for their work. They bring with them a rich diversity of culture and background, and a commitment to PSU’s unique approach to education. They are national leaders in research, community engagement, sustainability and urban planning. Their innovation and excellence is changing countless lives every day.

PSU is in the implementation stage of a five year strategic plan. Goal #2 — Advance excellence in teaching and research — is our commitment to attract and retain the highest quality faculty by recognizing excellence, prioritizing professional development and focusing on research and programs that enhance our competitive advantage.

We aim to create more endowed faculty positions to support this goal.

The highest academic recognition that a university can bestow on a faculty member is a named endowed chair or professorship. It is both an honor to the holder of the appointment as well as an enduring tribute to the donor who establishes it.

Faculty are provided funds for curricular innovation, research, or to foster collaboration with scholars from around the world. These positions provide students with unprecedented access to the world’s top scholars. They provide opportunities for student discovery as research assistants in laboratories.

HOUSING FOR ALL
Urban Planning Professor LISA BATES focuses her research on analyzing affordable housing locations with respect to transit and jobs, understanding gentrification and displacement, and how planning systems can support housing choices.
Endowed faculty positions can be meaningful to donors who can leverage their giving to attract the brightest minds to the institution.

Currently, PSU has eighteen endowed professorships, six endowed chairs and only one endowed dean position. In comparison, Oregon State University boasts approximately 126 endowed positions and the University of Oregon nearly 130.

Private support will help us close this gap and attract the most celebrated professors, the brightest students and critical research funding.

PSU Mechanical and Materials Engineering Professor MARK WEISLOGEL, an expert in fluid dynamics, has designed numerous experiments performed by astronauts aboard the International Space Station.

Weislogel and his students used complex mathematics to design a coffee cup that allows liquids in zero-gravity to be sipped instead of sucked from a tube. That’s great news for coffee-loving astronauts, and the science behind it has implications for space travel that are out of this world.

Numbers reflective of Fall 2015 term

OUT OF 1,741 RESEARCH AND INSTRUCTIONAL FACULTY there are 25 endowed positions

STUDENT TO FACULTY RATIO 19:1
KNOCKING OUT MALARIA

Chemistry Professor KEVIN REYNOLDS and his research team, including Jane Kelly and Papireddy Kancharla, discovered a possible solution to cure malaria in a one-pill dose.

PORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY
Minimum* endowment levels

DEAN $3 MILLION
CHAIR $1.5 MILLION
PROFESSOR $500,000
RESEARCH $100,000

Endowed positions are prestigious and influential awards for faculty. These positions allow PSU to recruit and retain outstanding faculty and honor and recognize their achievements. Donors may also create an endowed Faculty Research Fund that will support and accelerate research in a designated field of study.

* Levels may vary by academic discipline in consultation with Dean and Provost.

PSU is the only Oregon university named by U.S. News & World Report as one of the nation’s “Most Innovative” universities, joining a prestigious list that includes Harvard, Duke, MIT and Stanford.