

# HIGH-IMPACT INVESTMENT

▶▶ Endowed Chairs at the U.S. Air Force Academy



[Photo by Ryan Hall]

Endowed chairs are high-impact investments in the U.S. Air Force Academy's academic excellence. Donors create endowed chairs to support, in perpetuity, outstanding USAFA faculty members dedicated to educating, training and inspiring men and women to become leaders of character for the Air Force and Space Force.

## BENEFITS OF ENDOWED CHAIRS

- **Recruitment and retention** — Because top-notch faculty are in high demand, endowed chairs give the Academy an edge in attracting and retaining preeminent professors across its departments and centers. Endowed chairs are filled by recognized scholars who have achieved a terminal degree — in most cases, a doctorate — in a specific area or discipline.
  - **Academic rigor** — Endowed chairs provide the faculty holder with a reliable stream of funding for a range of academic uses. Funds can be used for research, continuing education, equipment and technology, and other projects that continually challenge cadets and further the Academy's overall academic excellence.
  - **Research and innovation** — Endowed chair holders may use some of the funds generated annually to support their research projects. At USAFA, research brings real-world insights and understanding, helps solve problems through innovative thinking and approaches and nurtures industry partnerships. Cadets and other faculty members benefit through engaging learning and leadership development.
- Endowed chairs are an investment not only in academic excellence, but also in the reputation of the Air Force Academy as a prestigious undergraduate institution and elite military service academy. This, in turns, bolsters USAFA's ability to attract top college-bound students interested in a life of service.



[Photo by Justin R. Pacheco/USAF A]

### HOW TO CREATE AN ENDOWED CHAIR AT USAFA

A gift of \$5 million or more may establish a permanent endowed chair. The donor may designate the scholar's department or general field of study at the time of the gift. An endowed chair can bear the donor's name or any name that is of significance to the donor or relevant to the chair's focus. At USAFA, individuals, corporations and foundations have created endowed chairs.

A gift to establish an endowed chair should be made through the Air Force Academy Foundation.

### WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

The endowed chair is managed by ARDI. The Air Force Academy Foundation and ARDI work closely together to create an excellent experience for the donor and deliver impact on USAFA's academic mission element.

About 4.5% of the endowment is used annually to support the holding faculty member's priorities. The dean of the faculty selects the professors who will occupy the chairs.

### PRIORITIZING ENDOWED CHAIRS

ARDI and the Air Force Academy Foundation are committed to supporting the Academy's mission to develop leaders of character and specifically to advancing USAFA's efforts to recruit and retain outstanding faculty members. They share a long-term goal of expanding the number of perpetually endowed chairs and collaborate to ensure seamlessness with gift management, annual reporting to the donor and ongoing recognition.

### CURRENT USAFA ENDOWED CHAIRS

- Anders Chair
- Arabic Studies Chair
- Coleman-Richardson Chair in Computer Science
- Holland H. Coors Chair in Education Technology
- Philip J. Erdle Chair in Engineering Science
- William Lyon Chair in Professional Ethics
- Robert F. McDermott Chair in Academic Excellence
- Fred and Linda Milanovich Chair in Computer and Cyber Science
- Bernard A. Schriever Chair in Space Systems Engineering
- Rokke/Simon Chair in the Simon Center for Strategic Studies

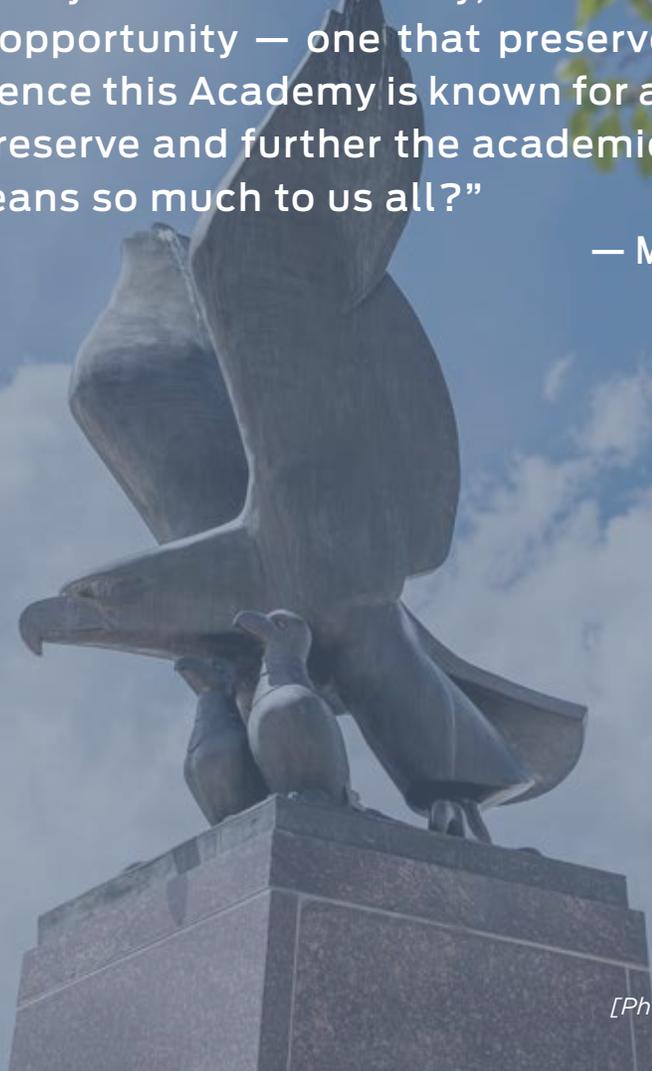


Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Chris Inglis '76 was the Fred and Linda Milanovich Chair during the 2023-24 academic year.

[Photo by Justin Pacheco/USAF A]

“The endowed chair is a special symbol of excellence in education. It is a truly enduring gift that reflects in perpetuity the generous vision of its founders and the power of knowledge. The endowed chairs at our United States Air Force Academy offer the Academy, its faculty and cadets an exciting educational opportunity — one that preserves and enhances the tradition of excellence this Academy is known for all over the world. What better way to preserve and further the academic preeminence of an institution that means so much to us all?”

— Mick Erdle, CEO, ARDI



*[Photo by Rayna Grace/USFA]*

#### **About the Air Force Academy Foundation**

The Air Force Academy Foundation exists to support the Academy, serve graduates and preserve the heritage of the institution and Long Blue Line. A nonprofit 501(c)(3), the Foundation shares this mission with the Association of Graduates and works closely with ARDI on driving academic excellence at the Academy. Donors have contributed more than \$400 million through the Air Force Academy Foundation since it was founded in 2007.

#### **About ARDI**

ARDI has had a singular mission since its inception in 1984: to support and fortify the academic excellence found at the United States Air Force Academy. As a nonprofit 501(c)(3), ARDI achieves this mission by providing perpetually endowed academic chairs, which are made possible through the generosity and philanthropic support of donors.



For more information, visit [afacademyfoundation.org](http://afacademyfoundation.org)