The Power of 100 Years Campaign: A Message from Dean Jacquelyn Litt

On September 18, 1918—with 54 students, 16 faculty members and 12 library books—the New Jersey College for Women embarked on an ambitious mission to provide high-quality, four-year, undergraduate liberal arts education for women. Douglass started as the vision of the New Jersey Federation of Women’s Clubs. Since that day, Douglass has given us one hundred years of excellence, one hundred years of aspirations, and one hundred years of success.

Today, with 2,600 women and more than 39,000 proud alumnae, Douglass remains committed to that mission—as an institution stronger than ever. Enrollment at Douglass has grown 65 percent since 2010, enrolling a brilliant, diverse, and ambitious group of student scholars.

Douglass celebrates its ground-breaking living-learning communities designed to retain women in fields such as engineering, computer science, and medicine. Our lecture series brings high-profile and well-known speakers in public policy, STEM, current events, and leadership to interact with Douglass students. BOLD positions Douglass students for excellence in work and life by providing an innovative and enriching set of leadership, mentoring, externships, internships, and career and personal development programs. Project SUPER continues to work with faculty and Douglass STEM students to produce world-class research at the undergraduate level, all thanks to donor support.

As we celebrate Douglass’ vibrant, groundbreaking past, I am pleased to announce the launch of the $10 million Power of 100 Years Campaign to invest in her future.

We need you at this pivotal moment to become part of Douglass’ tomorrow.

Every new dollar raised, whether for on-campus programs, student research, scholarships, global learning opportunities, or career development, continues the legacy of Douglass as the premier intellectual community of women—for women—which empowers them to learn, lead, and live with conviction, creativity, and critical insight.

Douglass is thriving because of your support: donors provide scholarship support annually to hundreds of Douglass students;

our highly regarded BOLD Center at Douglass for Career and Leadership Development would not be possible without the passion and generosity of alumnae and friends; the Douglass Project STEM program leads the nation with innovation and student success; alumnae and friends have also helped create new programs on gender and arts to engage students with the power of creativity to change the world.

Donor support not only enabled Douglass’ success through decades of societal and political changes, but also has transformed the college into a national leader in women’s education—a position that Rutgers University fully embraces in its efforts to attract top women faculty and students in the nation.

Women in the next century are poised to have unprecedented influence on the course of world affairs. Their education is essential to securing a future of peace, prosperity, and well-being. Now more than ever, an investment in Douglass sets students on their paths of discovery and leadership. Just as generations of Douglass women before them, Douglass women will leave their mark on the world with your contributions to their future.

Empower the future of Douglass. Please join us in supporting The Power of 100 Years Campaign. If you have any questions about giving to Douglass, please contact Meghan Rehbein, assistant dean of Advancement, at (848) 932-3129.

With gratitude,
Jacquelyn Litt, Ph.D.
Dean, Douglass Residential College and Douglass Campus
The Power of 100 Years Campaign will focus on five key funding areas:

**WHERE THE NEED IS GREATEST**
The Douglass Difference Annual Fund (formerly the Excellence Fund) — your financial support will give the Dean much needed funds for the college’s innovative programs and student opportunities. For example, these funds support student travel, research, professional development, and programs like our Diversity and Inclusion Program. Help empower Douglass students to claim their college education, to establish a place in the world, and to pioneer the future.

**DOUGLASS STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORT**
Scholarships ensure that talented students have the financial support they need to achieve their dreams and fully immerse themselves in the Douglass experience. Over 80 percent of our students have financial need.

**EDUCATING WOMEN GLOBAL LEADERS AT DOUGLASS**
Douglass helps women become globally-conscious individuals who can step into any role. Among the college’s renowned international programs is the Global Village, a living-learning community where students work together to explore cultural topics and volunteer in community service projects.

**ADVANCING WOMEN IN STEM AT DOUGLASS**
Since 1986, Douglass has been at the forefront of helping women forge careers in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM). Our nationally recognized Douglass Project offers students enriching residential programs like our DOCTORS LLC, Reilly Douglass Engineering Living-Learning Community (DE LLC) Program, and hands-on undergraduate research opportunities.

**THE BOLD CENTER AT DOUGLASS**
Building Opportunities for Leadership and Development (B.O.L.D.) — Home of the college’s highly-regarded programs in career and personal development, mentoring, and leadership. Women are empowered to make their mark from the moment they become part of Douglass, developing a personalized set of tools and skills to thrive both in college and throughout their lives. BOLD programs include Bold Empower, Mentoring, Externship Experience, Public Leadership Education Network (PLEN), Career Conference, Leadership and Professional Development Education, and Legal Careers Exploration.
Project SUPER (Science for Undergraduates: A Program for Excellence in Research) is a STEM-focused enrichment program that offers undergraduate women the opportunity to actively participate in research early in their academic careers.

“When our undergraduate women participate in hands-on research, we see it ignite their love of and passion for science in ways that theory and classroom work does not,” said Sally Nadler, director of the Douglass Project for Women in STEM. “To be able to provide these experiences for our students, as Douglass has done for over 30 years, is what makes our programs stand out at Rutgers and in the nation,”

Established in 1993, Project SUPER’s initiatives include an introductory scientific research course, stipends for summer research, special STEM travel grants, and exceptional academic support.

Participants are paired with a principal investigator in the STEM field of their choice and have the opportunity to work on challenging STEM research projects. The research experience concludes with a university-wide scientific poster session in the fall.

Students gain multi-layered mentoring—a high-impact practice that has been shown to increase the retention of women in STEM. Not only do students receive a faculty mentor, they also get a STEM graduate student mentor, a Douglass staff mentor, and a STEM peer mentor.

Project SUPER has achieved a 95 percent retention rate for women in STEM majors, with 520 students participating since 2012. By retaining more undergraduate women in STEM fields of study, the project has helped facilitate the influx of women into the STEM workforce.

Hands-on research, in a laboratory or clinical setting, has been identified as a high-impact practice for the recruitment and retention of women in STEM,” Nadler said.

Donors make Project SUPER possible by providing $3,000 stipends to support students’ individual research and are invited to attend the poster session held in the fall to see the impact of their giving in person. For more information about supporting Project SUPER or student research, contact the Advancement Office at 848.932.2545 or drcadvancement@rutgers.edu.

Project SUPER participant Cyanna Padmore DRC’21 explains her research to attendees

Marilou Terpenning M.D., F.A.C.P. DC’71 receiving the Douglass Project Award for the Advancement of Women in S.T.E.M.
THE BOLD EMPOWER PROGRAM

Douglass Residential College’s BOLD Empower program works to provide first-generation college students with the resources they need to thrive during their Douglass experience.

First-generation students are underrepresented on college campuses and, for a variety of reasons, many will leave college before they complete their degree. Douglass recognized that these students need a greater support system, and so we established BOLD Empower in 2017.

“The DRC Bold Empower program provides easy access to opportunities and support for our first-generation college students. These students have talent, ambition and potential, and it’s my job to help our students bring their potential to fruition,” said Leslie Danehy, the executive director of the BOLD Center.

The four-year program offers students an array of benefits, from one-on-one mentoring to networking opportunities to specialized programming on financial aid, leadership development, and family involvement.

“Being a part of the BOLD Empower program has brought me many opportunities as a first-generation college woman. They offer externships, scholarships, assistance with securing internships, and many other co-curricular opportunities for women to succeed in their professional lives,” Joceline Morales ’21 said. "It was the best choice for me to join BOLD Empower because I’m able to surround myself with other women who are motivated to jumpstart their careers and staff who want to help us achieve our goals.”

First-year BOLD Empower students residing on-campus either live with fellow BOLD Empower students in Katzenbach Hall or in other living-learning communities that bring students together with similar academic and cultural interests.

They also have the opportunity to take the RU-1ST course, which helps first-generation and underrepresented students make the transition from high school to college. Topic areas include major and career exploration, academic success skills, and financial literacy.

In their fourth year, BOLD Empower students complete a capstone project that builds on their experience during their four years in the program. The projects are designed to help students think critically, reflect on what they have learned, and solve problems using skills they have developed over their academic careers.

Philanthropic support is vital to enrich programming and provide merit based or financial need scholarships to our students. By giving to Douglass, you are directly supporting students. For more information about giving directly to Douglass student scholarships and programs like BOLD Empower, please call 848.932.2545 or email drcadvancement@echo.rutgers.edu.

“I believe the BOLD Empower Program is a great program because it gives first generation students a gateway to more resources and opportunities. It allows us to know that there are individuals on this huge campus who actually care and are rooting for our success.” - WEN SHAO DRC’22

Douglass alumnae attend the 2018 Christiana Foglio Palmer DC’84 Bold Conversations - The Douglass Career Conference for Women
EDUCATING WOMEN GLOBAL LEADERS AT DOUGLASS THROUGH THE GLOBAL VILLAGE

Some of the places we have served...

- Thailand
- South Africa
- Costa Rica
- Peru
- The Dominican Republic
- Appalachian Mountains
- Mexico
- Cuba
- Puerto Rico

“Being a part of the Global Village, I have found a tight knit community within a large university. The Global Village has allowed me to learn more about my passions outside of my major by opening me up to the new ideas and introducing me to people with different backgrounds and interests. It has also pushed me to learn more about the world outside of Rutgers and introduced me to new people, who have become lifelong friends and mentors.”

- CRISTIANE SALCEDO DRC’20
Global Village Medicine House

January 2019 Global Village Service Trips
Alumna Spotlight: Debra Joy Pérez

Debra Joy Pérez DRC’84 found her voice at Douglass College. As an active member of Casa Boricua (now Casa Hispanica) and Chi Upsilon Sigma, she discovered what it meant to be Latina, an activist, and a woman in the U.S. Her degree in communication and certificate in women’s studies sparked a curiosity that led her around the world. She earned Masters’ degrees at the University of Kent in Canterbury, England and Baruch College in New York. A prestigious Kellogg Foundation Fellowship led her to Harvard for her PhD in health policy. Dr. Pérez built a career combining social science and social justice, measuring the impact of philanthropic efforts at the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and Annie E. Casey Foundation. She is currently Senior Vice President of Organizational Culture, Inclusion and Equity at Simmons University.

Who were you before you enrolled at Douglass? How did your time here impact who you became by the time you graduated?

Like many people, going to college was where I discovered myself as an individual. Who I was when I arrived was a first-generation college attendee. I would not say I was shy before going to Douglass, but I certainly blossomed as an independent thinker. My desire to learn and know more about the world I was living in expanded. I had an awakening of what it meant to be female, and particularly Latina, in the U.S. at the time, and how restrictive it was for our freedoms and opportunities. Going to Douglass was a political, social, and cultural awakening for me. In many ways, Douglass was where I grew up.

Why do you think it’s important for women to extend a hand to the next generation and share what they’ve learned so far?

Mentoring changed my own life from an early age. In high school, my counselor was the first person to tell me I was smart enough to go to college. She inspired me to apply and paid for my college application. In college, I remember having the support of the librarian and various professors to encourage me. Mentoring teaches you the political context you are working in. You need more than competencies to be successful. You need social and political skills—and that’s what you get from mentoring.

The Moore Foundation is helping fund the Big Ten Academic Alliance for Advancing Women in STEM, led by Douglass. Why does a project like this matter?

I believe we are underutilizing our talent when there are inequities. The future of science depends on the full engagement of women and other underrepresented minorities. If you look at the demographics, the shift has already happened. A large majority of learners of the future, our scientists, will be people of color. In some fields, women are already a majority of undergraduates, yet they are not in the leadership positions in science as should be expected.

What advice would you offer for fellow alumnae?

I would encourage every person to make sure they have a diverse portfolio of people in their lives who are offering advice and support. And wherever you think you are in terms of your own growth, you have more than someone else. There’s something you can give someone else that would be a gift to them. I would encourage all women to look back to pull forward. Ask yourself, “Who can I help succeed in their lives?” We don’t get where we are by mistake. We all have something to offer, so we should be giving back as much as possible. The best thing about having power is using your power to help somebody else.
Thank you so much for being part of our crowdfunding campaign

Between September 17 and November 2, 165 Douglass supporters gave more than $53,000 in honor of the Douglass Centennial and 100th Anniversary celebrations.

165 DONORS
$53,980 RAISED
46 DAYS

1 matching gift of $25,000

ALUMNAE CLASS YEARS RANGED FROM 1956–2019, A 63-YEAR SPAN!

Douglass Alumnae In Memory Of Gifts
July 1, 2018 – November 30, 2018

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July 1, 2018 – November 30, 2018

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(continued…)

Professor Maria Katona Valgoczy
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Ms. Joyce Mitchell DC’67
Miss Eleanor A. Teleposky DC’68
Dr. Edwina M. Wright DC’67
Ms. Kathleen Kuster Hulteen DC’67
Professor Margaret A. Judson
In honor of the Douglass Centennial

Douglass Residential College Vanguard Class of 1967 Fund

As part of the celebration of their fiftieth anniversary year, the Class of 1967 established a special fund. The following memorial or honorarium gifts were received to this fund:

from Paula Bober Klein DC’67
In memory of Sara Holiner, Esq. DC’67

from Carol M. Trovato DC’67
In memory of...
Sara Holiner, Esq. DC’67
Mrs. Patricia Schilling McElroy DC’67
Ms. Lisa Brody (daughter of Sherry Spiezle DC’58)
Professor Marie-Jacques Hoog

Professor Maria Katona Valgoczy
Dr. Ruth Holzberg Namad DC’67
Ms. Joyce Mitchell DC’67
Miss Eleanor A. Teleposky DC’68
Dr. Edwina M. Wright DC’67
Ms. Kathleen Kuster Hulteen DC’67
Professor Margaret A. Judson
In honor of the Douglass Centennial
On Sunday, November 11, Dean Jacquelyn Litt and President Robert Barchi announced the launch of the Douglass $10 million Power of 100 Years Campaign to a packed audience of alumnae, donors, students, faculty, staff, and friends of the college. Alumnae shared stories of the impact they have seen from their donations, explaining to the audience why they give.

“It gives me great pleasure to think that my giving to Douglass is helping the young women of today launch their own futures,” said Julie Domonkos ‘83, chair of the Douglass Advisory Board, who was an inaugural Douglass Scholar. Barbara Rodkin ‘76, chair of the Power of 100 Years Campaign (and Vice Chair of the Advisory Board), encouraged her fellow alumnae to think about the impact they could have, noting that programs she helped found through a seed gift have grown to positively impact more than twice the original number of students.

To see Julie and Barbara’s speech on Why They Give, visit bit.ly/WhyWeGivetoDRC, and post a comment on Why You Give!