

# THE VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY STORY

## Pocket Guide



VILLANOVA  
UNIVERSITY  
IGNITE CHANGE. GO NOVA.

Dear Villanovan,

Villanova University's Strategic Plan states that in order to achieve our strategic goals, we first must create a shared understanding of exactly who we are and a shared language to describe the benefits we offer.

Every one of us knows that there is a special feeling at Villanova. But that feeling can be hard to explain. We use words like "Augustinian," "community" and "service"—but what do those words really mean?

For almost two years, we all have been involved in work to clarify and better communicate the Villanova story. We have heard from thousands of Villanovans as well as prospective students and their parents.

We learned that Villanovans are people who want to—who work to—ignite change. They want to make a difference. And what is it about Villanova University that creates this experience, this atmosphere, this community

that calls people to ignite change? I believe it is our Augustinian tradition, which is at the core of Villanova.

In order to tell our Villanova story, we must be able to really talk about what it means to be an Augustinian Catholic university. That is what the language in this pocket guide will help us do. As members of this community, we are the best ambassadors for Villanova. Together, we can spread the Villanova message to new audiences and open new doors.

It is my hope that this guide will inspire you, as it has me, to tell our Villanova story far and wide. The story is in our hands—let's share it.

Ignite Change. Go Nova.

Sincerely,

Rev. Peter M. Donohue, OSA, PhD  
President

### ABOUT VILLANOVA

Villanova University was founded in 1842 by the Order of St. Augustine. To this day, Villanova's Augustinian Catholic intellectual tradition is the cornerstone of an academic community in which students learn to think critically, act compassionately and succeed while serving others. Villanova prepares students to become ethical leaders who create positive change everywhere life takes them.

The strength of the Villanova experience comes in part from the University's welcoming community. All members are bonded together by a shared responsibility to uphold the ideals of St. Augustine and let the principles of truth, unity and love guide their lives. The Villanova community helps students grow intellectually, professionally and spiritually, and challenges them to reach their full potential.

The University's rigorous academic experience, rooted in the liberal arts, forms an environment in which students and professors are partners in

learning. The Villanova community is dedicated to providing a personalized experience that fosters every student's intellectual and spiritual well-being. As part of their education, students are encouraged to enrich their own lives by working for those in need. Through academic and service programs, students use their knowledge, skills and compassion to better the world around them.

There are over 10,000 undergraduate, graduate and law students in the University's five colleges—the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, the Villanova School of Business, the College of Engineering, the College of Nursing and the Villanova University School of Law. These colleges are the setting for an experience that develops both the heart and the mind, and creates the atmosphere where students are called to ignite change.

### REASONS TO GO NOVA

All of the following reasons to join the Villanova University community are compelling on their own, and together they create an experience that is greater than the sum of its parts. These reasons, taken as a whole, make the Villanova experience unique and powerful.

**Academic Excellence**—At Villanova, students are challenged by a rigorous academic experience rooted in the liberal arts and shaped by a community where students and professors are partners in learning.

**Strong Community**—Villanova's welcoming community shares a responsibility to uphold the ideals of St. Augustine: truth, unity and love. This environment helps students grow intellectually, professionally and spiritually, and challenges them to reach their full potential.

**Personal Attention**—The Villanova community is dedicated to providing a caring, personalized learning environment that fosters students' intellectual and spiritual well-being.

**Service to Others**—Villanova's Augustinian Catholic intellectual tradition challenges students to enrich their own lives by working for those in need. Academic and service programs allow students to use their knowledge, skills and compassion to better the world around them.

**Foundation for Lifelong Success**—The Villanova experience develops both the heart and the mind. It prepares students to become ethical leaders who create positive change everywhere life takes them.

### WHO WE ARE—STUDENTS OF CHANGE

**Our students change viewpoints, one frame at a time.**  
Fighting injustices through a camera's lens. Chronicling them in compelling social documentaries. Award-winning Villanova student filmmakers use Augustinian values to shape their worldview and give a voice to those who need it most. From the classroom to the cutting room, these changemakers frame the issues that matter to them—so they'll matter to you, too.

### Our students improve food safety, one snowflake at a time.

Think of it as better eating through chemistry. Villanova students study pollution in Arctic snowfall and lakes each year. That's because chemicals in the water accumulate in the fish and threaten the wildlife that rely on them. Their research could identify critical dangers to the environment—and our food supply.

### Our students change communities, one decision at a time.

Students enrolled in Villanova's Business Decision Making take it personally. After voluntarily raising funds for communities hurt by Katrina, they apply tactics learned in class to strategically direct their donations. They even travel to the region to build homes—and relationships. It's a lesson Villanova business students learn from the ground up: savvy business leaders must also be compassionate citizens.

### Our students change futures, one child at a time.

Villanova nursing students know seeing is critical to understanding. That's why they conduct vision

screenings in elementary schools as part of public health service. What they found was eye opening: 20 percent of the students couldn't see well enough to pass the test. If they can't pass a vision test, they can't pass a math test, or a reading test, or any other test. It appeared that they couldn't learn; but the truth is, they couldn't see. For them, glasses bring a bright future into focus.

### Our students change the environment, one order of fries at a time.

Nothing goes to waste at Villanova. Take cooking oil. After it's been used to cook chicken and fries, it's put to work powering campus vehicles. Our Engineering students have designed a production facility that converts waste cooking oil into biodiesel fuel. To reduce Villanova's footprint even more, they use the remaining glycerol to make soap. Thanks to green projects like this one, our students take "clean living" to a new level.

**Just some examples of how first-rate academics and 160 years of Augustinian Catholic tradition inspire minds to explore, act from the heart and succeed.**

For more stories, visit [IgniteChangeGoNova.com](http://IgniteChangeGoNova.com)

### THE VILLANOVA EXPERIENCE

Restless hearts and rigorous minds create wisdom to shape the world. The Villanova University experience melds intellect and spirituality. Villanova's Augustinian Catholic community urges self-exploration while rejecting self-centeredness. The Villanova journey yields ambition with a sense of mission; intellect inspired by faith. The result: Villanova attracts and forges world changers—people who create positive change everywhere life takes them.

### WHAT MAKES VILLANOVA DISTINCTIVE?

What sets Villanova University apart is its Augustinian Catholic intellectual tradition, which is the cornerstone of an academic community in which students learn to think critically, act compassionately and succeed while serving others. Villanova prepares students to become ethical leaders who create positive change everywhere life takes them.