Bass Connections: The Challenge

By investing in Bass Connections, our alumni and friends will play a vital role both in building this transformative program to its full potential and helping to set Duke apart among top universities. And through the Bass Challenge, which will match one dollar for every two dollars you contribute (a 1:2 match) of all endowment or expendable gifts to the program from $100,000 up to $2 million, you can increase the impact of your gift dramatically.

PROJECT TEAMS

One signature feature of Bass Connections is project teams that bring together faculty, undergraduates, graduate and professional students, and post-doctoral fellows from different departments and schools, and visiting fellows from outside the academy. They will blend their diverse perspectives and areas of expertise to tackle problems from all angles.

YOUR EXPENDABLE OR ENDOWED GIFT OF $100,000 OR MORE for a Bass Connections Project Team Fund, matched by the Bass Challenge, can help to fund problem-focused learning experiences for one or more teams.

ENGAGEMENT

The Bass Connections themes represent areas where Duke is poised to lead in research and scholarship. If Duke is to attain recognition globally as a platform for serious policy makers to present and develop their ideas and to engage our students in a national and global dialogue related to these critical societal issues, we must bring to campus a broad range of voices, including policymakers, finance experts, entrepreneurs, and analysts.

YOUR EXPENDABLE OR ENDOWED GIFT OF $100,000 OR MORE for a Bass Connections Engagement Fund, matched by $50,000 from The Bass Challenge, can support a Bass Connections Engagement Fund to convene experts and leaders, sponsor speakers, and bring prominent practitioners to campus to mentor our students and participate in project teams.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING

Meeting the challenges of our society will take a new breed of problem solver. Students graduating from Duke today need the knowledge to grasp complex issues, the ability to think critically across disciplines, the practical skills to devise and implement solutions, and the flexibility to work individually or in teams. Bass Connections will build on existing innovations within Duke’s curriculum to provide extensive new curricular options and team-based activities for students who seek to augment a traditional major with an in-depth exploration of broad societal challenges.

YOUR EXPENDABLE OR ENDOWED GIFT OF $100,000 OR MORE for a Bass Connections Education Fund, matched by the Bass Challenge, can provide vital support to interdisciplinary education and co-curricular programs across campus like “gate-way” courses, capstone experiences, faculty-mentored student research, boot camps, and experiential learning opportunities such as field studies and internships.
How will you move Duke forward?

Explore dukeforward.duke.edu

About the Challenge

Anne and Robert Bass are the visionary philanthropists who launched Bass Connections through a $50 million gift, including a generous $25 million matching gift challenge. The Basses will match one dollar for every two dollars you contribute (a 1:2 match).

What gifts qualify?

> Eligible gifts include endowment or expendable gifts beginning at $100,000.

> Gifts can be designated to Bass Connections, or further restricted, if desired, to a specific school. Initial preferences for a theme may also be expressed.

> Gifts from the matching programs at a donor’s company are eligible for challenge funds.

The maximum match available for any donor is $1 million.

Faculty

It takes leaders to create leaders. Duke’s commitment to interdisciplinary work has served as a powerful draw in attracting faculty in all 10 of Duke’s schools who are eager to collaborate across traditional academic boundaries to address the major challenges facing our society. Your gift to establish an endowed professorship—in partnership with the Bass Challenge—will enable Duke to recruit and retain the most distinguished faculty to shape the curriculum in each thematic area, mentor and inspire our students, and lead our vertically integrated project teams. Professorships must be restricted to the Bass Connections program and may be further restricted to a specific school. All professorships established within the Bass Connections program will be term chairs, with faculty appointed for up to seven years and eligible for renewal.

Your gift of $1,667 million, matched by $833,000 from the Bass Challenge, will endow a named, full professorship within the Bass Connections program at the $2.5 million level and will help Duke to attract and retain world-class faculty.

Your gift of $1 million, matched by $500,000 from the Bass Challenge, can either create an endowed assistant/associate professorship at the $1.5 million level to help Duke recruit or sustain a rising star or establish an endowed professorship of the practice at the $1.5 million level who will bring real-world experience in a thematic area and a full-time commitment to innovative pedagogy to the program.

Your gift of $667,000, matched by $333,000 from the Bass Challenge, will establish an endowed visiting professorship at the $1 million level to bring recognized leaders in academia, industry or the public sector—to campus to participate in interdisciplinary team projects with our students and faculty, teach classes and mentor students, doctoral candidates, and post-docs, expand our research collaborations, and provide fresh perspectives, energy, and vision.

Your gift of $334,000, matched by $166,000 from the Bass Challenge, will establish an endowed Faculty Fellows Fund at the $500,000 level, which will provide seed funding to some of Duke’s most creative teachers who seek to develop new courses, curricular initiatives or experiential learning opportunities within the Bass Connections program. Alternatively, your expendable gift of $167,000, matched by $83,000 from the Bass Challenge, can provide five years of funding to support one or more Faculty Fellows.

Graduate and Professional Student Fellowships

Duke seeks to admit the most promising, dedicated students into our graduate and professional school programs and provide experiences that will allow them to put their passions to work. But to successfully enroll the top students from the U.S. and abroad, we must provide aid packages that put a Duke education within reach—and compete with offers our applicants receive from peer institutions. The availability of this support is often a deciding factor in whether a student will choose to attend Duke.

Your gift of $167,000 or more, matched by $83,000 or more from the Bass Challenge, can establish an endowed fellowship at the $250,000 level and above for a talented graduate or professional school student who seeks to participate in the Bass Connections program.