The professors at Duke’s Sanford School of Public Policy are inspiring mentors and leading scholars. Recruiting, retaining, and supporting distinguished faculty is critical to our future success.

Faculty shape both the Sanford School’s reputation for excellence and a world-class curriculum designed to educate practical, ethical leaders for tomorrow. We are fortunate to count among our professors some of the most renowned thinkers and practitioners in the policy arena, including past White House advisers, former State Department officials, and a former managing editor of The Washington Post.

But the best public policy professors are highly sought after by other top universities, industry, government agencies, and think tanks. To hire and retain dedicated teachers and innovative scholars—particularly in emerging areas of study—the Sanford School must be able to compete.

Philanthropic investments that support outstanding public policy professors are critical to the success of the Duke Forward campaign. Not only will these gifts help Duke attract the strongest possible faculty, they’ll also ensure our ability to deliver premier educational and research programs across a range of fields.
Curriculum Development

How do you teach students to lead in an ever-changing world? That question fuels the Sanford School’s educational programming. As challenges emerge, from political upheaval to the continuing evolution of health care, our faculty members develop new programs to address society’s evolving needs.

Undergraduates enrolled in Duke’s Global Semester Abroad, for example, engage in an interdisciplinary study of health and development issues in two of the world’s fastest-growing economies: India and China. Created by Professor Anirudh Krishna in public policy and Professor Ralph Litzinger in cultural anthropology, the program combines challenging coursework with homestays, internships at local nonprofits, and research projects. Together, these experiences give students profound insight into the practical constraints of implementing public health innovations.

Specialized certificate programs for undergraduates, such as Global Health or Policy Journalism and Media Studies, are other powerful examples of curriculum enhancements that provide students with the chance to deepen their knowledge of a specific field of study.

Student interest in these intensive programs is high. But it takes a significant financial investment for our faculty to develop the most promising educational programs. Programs that span multiple disciplines or require smaller classes to maximize students’ hands-on learning opportunities are particularly costly to establish. Philanthropic support helps our professors create these extraordinary educational experiences for our students.

**YOUR GIFT OF $100,000 OR MORE** can support a curriculum enhancement fund that aids Sanford’s most creative teachers as they expand and enrich educational experiences for public policy students.

![Professor Anirudh Krishna and Duke students visit with a shopkeeper during the India portion of Global Semester Abroad.](image-url)
Endowed Professorships

Our professors are catalysts. The Sanford School’s faculty provide the mentoring and instruction that propel our students forward in their future careers. Our professors also conduct groundbreaking research that shapes policy decision-making across a range of fields, from energy and the environment to education and social policy.

Private support for endowed professorships has been key to building this stellar faculty and was an essential component of Sanford’s successful transition from an institute into a full-fledged school in 2009. Philanthropy remains a crucial ingredient for constructing the foundation of our future success. Donors who support endowed faculty positions at Sanford are not only recognizing remarkable academic leaders, they are supporting policy research with potentially profound implications. Endowed chairs are lasting investments in the future of the Sanford School, ensuring that for generations to come our students will benefit from their ability to connect with great thinkers and mentors in public policy.

YOUR GIFT OF $1 MILLION OR MORE

can endow a visiting professorship to support expert practitioners and outside scholars who bring fresh perspectives that enhance intellectual exchange.

YOUR GIFT OF $2.5 MILLION OR MORE

can endow a distinguished faculty chair, helping Duke recruit and retain outstanding faculty who will enrich the Sanford School’s academic programs and provide mentors for our students.

Creating an Important Link

When Kenneth Dodge Ph.D. ’78 came to Duke in 1999 as founding director of Duke’s Center for Child and Family Policy, he was given a charge: Make a difference. Dodge, the William McDougall Professor of Public Policy and a specialist in youth violence, has done exactly that. His efforts to study behavior and develop effective and economically sustainable ways to support families have resulted in a variety of new programs.

One is Durham Connects, a program that provides free home visits from nurses to parents of newborns to help them plug in to helpful community resources. Based on the positive feedback from participants in the pilot, the program expanded in 2011 to include visits to all babies born in Durham County. Another program—the Durham Family Initiative—focuses on reducing child abuse. Participating families are screened for risk factors and matched with community resources. Since the initiative’s inception in 2002, the official rate of child maltreatment in Durham has decreased by 50 percent.

Now Dodge is poised to tackle an even larger problem: the education crisis in America. The Duke 2020 Initiative on Education and Human Development is an ambitious eight-year plan that will use research, data analysis, teaching, and engagement to transform the way that we raise and educate our children.

“I am passionate about families,” Dodge says. “I’m passionate about these human relationships and ways we can help families develop better relationships with their babies.”

He’s also passionate about students, and he has made it a priority to involve Duke students in all of the center’s activities. Both undergraduates and graduate students have the chance to work closely with center faculty on research projects, including many that have led to publications. Dodge also personally mentors dozens of students.

“Investing time in our community of students is an important part of our ability to invest in programs that foster positive outcomes for our broader community,” he says.
Research Funds

Our professors conduct research that matters. Not only do they publish groundbreaking studies, they put their knowledge and ideas into practice in a variety of far-reaching ways.

But a gap exists between our faculty’s innovative ideas and the amount of funding available to conduct proof-of-concept research essential for obtaining the large grants needed to scale up projects. And in some fields, university resources and private support are the only sources of research funding.

When possible, Duke helps to bridge that gap with small grants, such as the funding provided to launch the Reporters’ Lab at the DeWitt Wallace Center for Media & Democracy. A rich resource for investigative journalists, the lab is dedicated to developing and housing the tools, techniques, and research that can support working reporters as their profession undergoes profound changes in the digital age.

Sanford professors and graduate students have also played an integral role in the Duke Cookstove Initiative. A collaboration among Duke social scientists, biomedical researchers, and environmental scientists, it aims to improve air quality and reduce pulmonary disease in the developing world by tackling one of its leading causes: poorly ventilated cooking stoves. Today $500,000 from USAID makes the initiative possible, but a small pilot project funded by Duke paved the way for that grant.

The university has only limited funds it can direct toward promising faculty-driven research projects like these. Private support for public policy research helps our investigators explore the potential of their most exciting ideas. These investments pay rich dividends by opening the door for additional funding and generating results that matter.

YOUR GIFT OF $100,000 OR MORE can provide research funding that enables policy faculty to pursue solutions to the world’s most pressing problems.

Sarah Cohen, a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist, helped establish The Reporter’s Lab to develop tools for investigative reporters.