

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

What makes Rice extraordinary? Founding president Edgar Odell Lovett defined it by saying the university would “set no upper limit on its educational endeavor.” We remain intent on that ambition. In less than 100 years, Rice has achieved a distinctive position among America’s great research universities as a small great university. That is, while smaller than most, Rice is able to compete with the best in the nation, indeed, in the world.

From its inception, Rice has been dedicated to three missions: educating and preparing outstanding students for diverse careers and lives, contributing to the advancement of knowledge across a wide range of fields, and being of service to our city, our state, our nation, and our world. In all of these, Rice’s advantages lie in its relatively small size, urban location, diversity, focus on important areas of strength, and environment of interdisciplinary and inter-institutional collaboration. All of these work together to create a unique community of learning and discovery that produces leaders able to contribute to the solution of local, national, and global challenges.

Throughout its history, the university has recruited some of the most talented and capable students in the country and offered them a rigorous and demanding academic experience. Today, that includes a reimagining of the relationship between academics, student life, and real-world experiences shaped not just by close interactions with faculty teachers and mentors, but by thoughtfully integrated opportunities for intellectual, social, and moral development.

Learning of this type encourages more than a deep understanding of theory. It actively engages students in nonstandard settings outside the classroom, generating memorable, transformative experiences and honing the interpersonal skills necessary to face the full range of problems and challenges of professional life. It also cultivates the leadership skills that will boost the impact our graduates already have on our rapidly changing world.

Much research at Rice is addressed to identifying, understanding, and solving a wide range of scientific, technical, social, and cultural problems. But the university’s increasing engagement with the city of Houston does more than provide us with a living laboratory; it also vitalizes those explorations, making them more than academic exercises. We are as indebted to our great home city of Houston, with its rich social and cultural diversity, as it is to us.

But of course, opportunities for collaborative relationships are not limited geographically. The great universities of the 21st century will be global universities. Rice and its students benefit immensely from the sustained and deep relationships we are building with educational and policy institutions around the world. These intellectual bridges, in conjunction with our many qualities and opportunities, truly place Rice in the elite category of institutions whose effects are of global reach.

General Announcements is your guide through Rice’s diverse academic offerings, taught by an enormously talented faculty. It further serves as a handbook for the rules and responsibilities that govern both undergraduate and graduate student life in our community.

Welcome to Rice University.

David W. Leebron
President
William Marsh Rice University