



CREATING A BETTER WORLD THROUGH EDUCATION

October 2021

Dear Mr. and Ms. Harrel,

Creating a better world through education is above all else the primary goal of the University of Washington.

Students and faculty understand that no matter their discipline or course of study, their education and research can have far-reaching effects both here in Washington and worldwide. Through the world-class education that the University provides, our students, faculty and alumni play active roles as promoters of positive change.

In the spring of 2016, the UW launched our *Population Health Initiative* to create a healthier and more equitable society through a holistic approach of improving human health, environment resilience and social and economic equity. It is where these intersect that collectively we can achieve the greatest impact. *Today, we see the need for this initiative is more evident than ever.*

As a past contributor to the University of Washington, your renewed support is needed now more than ever. The private philanthropic support of the health sciences, social sciences, public policy, law, business, education, environmental studies and the arts address all of the factors that influence societal health. No matter your area of passion, we are working TOGETHER to advance our vision to change the world for the better.

Most recently, private support and grant funds from the *Population Health Initiative* have helped the UW identify and address inequities revealed by the pandemic, climate change and economic recovery efforts. This critical research has been a driving force for good and strengthened our ability to overcome some of the most troubling barriers in our society.

Recent stories and statistics derived from this research show how unfavorable health outcomes are influenced. In particular, these outcomes are linked by unequal access to health care, housing instability and the imbalanced occupational demographics of frontline workers that cannot work remotely. Another study explored the need for expanding accessibility to online legal services to domestic abuse survivors. Expanding online access would remove barriers for legal proceedings and reduce the negative effects and trauma related to in-person proceedings. Lastly, research on the economic recovery has been extensive. Studies into the economic impact on social services, agricultural activity, small businesses, workforce and workplace safety, and vulnerability are all being conducted to help guide a strong and equitable path forward.

These efforts are vital and ever-evolving. The University of Washington is committed to addressing the many facets of the health of our communities, near and far, and we simply could not achieve these goals without people like you investing in a brighter future. I invite you to learn more about these efforts and others by visiting washington.edu/populationhealth.

The knowledge and research behind the innovation and academic excellence that the UW is known for are only achieved because of the dedication of our community to invest in these practices. We admire your persistence in helping us inspire positive change through your continued investment in the students, faculty and resources needed for this pursuit.

In appreciation,

Thomas J Duke, '05
Director of Annual Giving

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