

BAILEY

BOOSTERS

Greetings,

My name is Glenn Sterner and I am a Bailey Scholar. More specifically, I earned my specialization in Connected Learning (before it was a minor) in 2004, before serving as director of our learning community from 2006 to 2010.

I had the opportunity to visit the Bailey Space, still located in room 65 in Ag Hall, earlier this fall for a community lunch. Nearly all the faces were new to me, but I couldn't shake the feeling that it was the same old Bailey. Passionate, curious people gathered together to build community (through food). It has been 25 years since the first Bailey class met and 17 years since the program was opened to include students from the entire university. The space had received a new coat of paint, but the declaration still hangs from the ceiling, circling the perimeter of the room, announcing that "The Bailey Scholars Program seeks to be a community of scholars dedicated to lifelong learning. All members of the community work toward providing a respectful, trusting environment where we acknowledge our interdependence and encourage personal growth (through food)."

Nevertheless, after speaking with the program's new director, Dr. Sarah Prior, and our academic advisor (and alumni himself), Dustin Petty, I learned that the budget crunches I experienced more than a decade ago had not gotten much better. Despite the clear added value of the program and the impact it has made on hundreds of lifelong learners, they still struggle to receive new funds to grow the program or its programming in any dramatic way.

That's why I'm writing you today, asking if you will join with me to create the Bailey Boosters Organization (BBO - you know we love acronyms in this community). The goal of the BBO is to develop fundraising and other support efforts that can ensure all Scholars have the opportunities you and I did (and hopefully more!), and will continue to do so for another 25 years. And, as you all know, this takes harnessing our 25 years of community creation to fully support the program. I'm hoping you will be willing to help by being a BBO member.

In addition, I'm hoping to find 100 individuals who will join me in donating \$100 each month for 10 months in 2024, raising \$100,000 to create an unrestricted fund that will allow program leaders (as always, in concert with the student leadership) the opportunity to dream big about how they want to grow the program, support students in their learning journeys, and enable faculty and graduate students to understand how to facilitate a college environment that cultivates inclusivity, ensuring it is around for another 25 years.

If you're willing to make this commitment, please complete a short survey at tinyurl.com/baileyboosters (or scan the QR code below), providing some basic information. I'll be in touch with more information about next steps, and will be happy to answer any questions or concerns you might have.

I look forward to working with you to enthusiastically support this lifelong learning community for another generation of Bailey Scholars; and maybe we can do so with some soup along the way.

Best,



Glenn E. Sterner, PhD
Bailey Scholar '04
Past Bailey Scholars Director
Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice