

iliff
SCHOOL *of* THEOLOGY

2024-2025
YEAR IN REVIEW



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

To our dear Iliff Community,

Thank you! It seems only right to start with gratitude. Your continued dedication to and support of Iliff has allowed us to continue to move forward with justice and compassion, even as these attributes become harder to find in the world around us.

Thanks to your incredible generosity, we had a record-breaking fundraising year in 2024-2025. Thank you for helping us raise over \$2.5 million dollars! You supported more student scholarships, empowered more faculty research, and pushed Iliff further into our community.

We are grateful that you showed up--not just for fundraising and support, but for events on campus and online. This year, we hosted conversations on ecojustice, Denver's queer history, the dangers of Christian Nationalism, and many other topics. We were reminded that learning does not just end with a diploma, and each time we come together, we have the chance to shine a light on new ideas and raise new voices.

Among our many events this year, we also celebrated the leadership of the Rev. Dr. Catherine Kelsey, who was installed as the Vice President of Academic Affairs and Dean of the Faculty in February. Dean Kelsey continues to lead an incredible team here at Iliff and lend her wisdom and perception to our community in new ways.

We have so much to celebrate, even if, at times, it seems that the world is going in a challenging direction. Thank you for joining and supporting Iliff as we work to do good in the world. You make Iliff possible, and we are grateful for you every day.

Blessings, Pres. Lee H. Butler, Jr.

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We sincerely appreciate and honor the tireless efforts of Iliff's Board of Trustees. Your dedication to advancing graduate theological education has been crucial in shaping Iliff's growth and direction. Thank you for your service and support.

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FACULTY CELEBRATIONS

Faculty are recognized and celebrated for outstanding contributions to the school in three areas: Scholarship, Teaching, and Service.



CELEBRATING SCHOLARSHIP

DR. KRISTINA LIZARDY-HAJBI

Associate Professor of Leadership and Formation and Director of the Vocational Formation Office



CELEBRATING TEACHING

DR. APRIL MACK

Assistant Professor of Religion and Social Justice



CELEBRATING SERVICE

DR. MIGUEL DE LA TORRE

Professor of Social Ethics and Latinx Studies

MASTERS STUDENTS OF THE YEAR

The following awards celebrate the achievements of our students. We honor their contributions and excellence they bring to the Iliff community.

BOBBIE KITE

Master of Theological Studies

GLORIA ELIZABETH XINICO MORALES

Master of Arts in Social Justice and Ethics

EVENTS AT ILIFF

Many outstanding events took place at Iliff this year. In addition to these, we had a live Pulpit+ Exchange and Renewal season full of notable changemakers, thought leaders, and speakers.

“We Advocate Freedom!” Teach-In Series

June-November 2024

A series of 5 sessions exploring the multiple paths advocates for change can work within or outside dominant systems to advocate inclusion and freedom. These conversations explored the issues of protest and consequences; non-violent and violent resistance; community organizing, and internal/external approaches.

“WE ADVOCATE
FREEDOM!”
TEACH-IN SERIES

SESSION 1 • JUNE 27, 2024
Strategies Toward Effective Social Change:
Personal and Institutional Commitments

FACILITATED BY President Rev. Dr. Lee H. Butler, Jr.

SPEAKERS

Dr. Teresa Smallwood
United Lutheran Seminary

Dr. Kristina Lizardy-Hajbi
Iliff School of Theology

Bro. Daniel Klawitter
Iliff School of Theology



Everding Lecture: Reclaiming the Jewishness of Jesus

September 23, 2024

Featuring Adam Gregerman, Ph.D., Professor of Jewish Studies, Dept. of Theology and Religious Studies & Associate Director, Institute for Jewish-Catholic Relations, Saint Joseph’s University in Philadelphia.

The Rise in Christian Nationalism

October 17, 2024

This interfaith, in-depth analysis of how Christian nationalism has evolved and its implications on our world, led by Interfaith Alliance national CEO, Rev. Paul Raushenbush, an ordained Baptist minister and longtime leader in the interfaith movement, with an introduction from Interfaith Alliance of Colorado CEO, Shara Smith.





Showing Up & Showing Out

October 22, 2024

A night of student stories and action to build inclusive leadership in local politics, featuring the video *Showing Up & Building Out: Iliff Students Supporting LGBTQ+ Youth in Rural Communities*. Iliff students learned alongside local community stakeholders, including LGBTQ+ people, churches and religious communities, school board members, and local government officials.

Holiday Hymn Sing

December 13, 2024

A heartwarming evening of hymns, accompanied by the majestic sound of the Iliff Chapel organ. Friends and family gathered together to experience the spirit of the season with special performers Stephen Waechter and Robert Klimek. This free event was open to all ages and brought loved ones together with music and Joy.



Sacred Earth, Sacred Action

February 8, 2025

Sacred Earth, Sacred Action (SESA), was a phenomenal one-day conference that brought together environmental scientists, theologians, poets, and faith leaders to inspire meaningful change within communities of faith and activism in the Rocky Mountains and beyond.

Everding Lecture: Impediments to Peace in a Wounded Land

February 11, 2025

Rev. Dr. Randy Woodley has a deep passion for creativity and Indigenous spirituality, justice, and earth empowerment. He weaves Indigenous wisdom, ecological sustainability, and spirituality into positive change. Dr. Woodley is Distinguished Professor of Faith and Culture Emeritus at George Fox University/Portland Seminary and the former Director of Intercultural and Indigenous studies.





Installation of Rev. Dr. Dean Kelsey

February 13, 2025

The President, trustees, faculty, staff, and students of Iliff School of Theology in the formal installation of the Rev. Dr. Cathie Kelsey as the Sr. Vice President of Academic Affairs and Dean of the Faculty.

Vincent G. Harding Scholar Lecturer: Solimar Otero

April 8, 2024

Solimar Otero is the Director of the Latino Studies Program, and Professor of Folklore and Gender Studies at Indiana University, Bloomington. She is also the editor of the Journal of Folklore Research. Her research centers on how gender and race shape Afro-Caribbean spirituality and Yoruba traditional religion in folklore, performance, literature, and ethnography.



The First 100 Days

April 29, 2025

This thought-provoking panel discussion reflected on the first 100 days of the current administration. It was co-sponsored by the Institute for Religion, Politics & Culture and the Colorado Council of Churches. Moderated by Amanda Henderson, this insightful conversation featured a distinguished panel of experts, including Caran Ware Joseph and Miguel De La Torre.

LGBTQ+ Denver

May 1, 2025

We were honored to host author Phil Nash, whose acclaimed work, *LGBTQ Denver*, offers a vital look at the individuals, movements, and milestones that have shaped our city's vibrant LGBTQ+ community. An open and engaging discussion followed his presentation, bringing together Iliff students, faculty, allies, and community supporters.



Threads of Freedom: A Celebration of Music, History & Heroes

May 19, 2025

This Harding Days celebration began with hors d'oeuvres and an African-American quilt display. Keynote speaker, Dr. Cheryl LaRoche, historian and underground railroad scholar, shared about her work researching Paul Quinn, an African Methodist Episcopal Bishop who guided enslaved people to freedom through the underground railroad. The event featured a performance by The Spirituals Project.



Commencement

June 6, 2025

Iloff School of Theology celebrated its 120th graduating class with Commencement speaker, star of stage and screen, actor Keith David! Commencement was held at St. Andrew United Methodist Church in Highlands Ranch. Over 300 people joined us in person and online to celebrate our 2025 Iloff Graduates! There were tears, laughs, and lots of cheering as our graduates officially became alumni/ae! Three-time Emmy Award-winning actor Keith David delivered a passionate speech, encouraging graduates to feel the wind beneath their wings and move forward with confidence. Ben Lewis received an honorary trustee award.




RENEWAL SERIES

We are always considering the future. As individuals, as members of groups, as citizens, we are often asking, “What will tomorrow bring? How will our world, our country, our institutions look in the coming years? And how can we shape that future to make it better?”




In the midst of so many uncertainties, our Renewal season focused on questions around what is coming next and how we can work for a better future. We explored topics ranging from artificial intelligence to religious institutions to politics and government and heard from Iliff faculty, local activists, nationally-recognized experts, and the new Bishop of the Mountain Sky Conference of the United Methodist Church. Together, we discussed the future of our institutions, like mainline religious denominations and theology schools; the future of our communities and how to care for our neighbors; and our own futures and the uncertainties we face in our own day-to-day lives.

Thank you to our incredible speakers and all the participants who made this Renewal season an incredible chance to look to the future!



Looking to the Future
The Future of Democracy
Wednesday, October 16, 2024
12:00 – 1:30 pm via Zoom

PANELISTS

 Nicole Hensel New Era Colorado	 Daniel Ramos Non-profit Executive Director	 Ian Silverii Colorado House Majority Project
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MODERATED BY: Rev. Dr. Amanda Henderson



Looking to the Future
The Future of The United Methodist Church
Wed. Nov. 13, 2024 • 12 – 1:30pm via Zoom

PANELISTS

 Bishop Kristin Stoneking Mountain Sky Conference	 Gayla Jo Slauson Mountain Sky Conference Co-Lay Leader	 Rev. Lynn Miller Jackson Superintendent, Montana West District
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MODERATED BY: Rev. Annie Arnoldy
Superintendent of Vitality and Director of Connectional Ministry

PULPIT+ EXCHANGE SERIES

Illiff's Pulpit+ Exchange Series (supported by the Pathways for Tomorrow Initiative from Lilly Endowment Inc.) provides space for a diverse array of ordained clergy and lay leaders to gather and grapple with challenging issues. Each evening starts with a light meal and time for community connection.

One of the main goals of the Pulpit+ Exchange is to build congregations of people who will authentically study, worship, walk, and act together across differences to create a just and equitable world. Together, we explore powerful stories of hope, healing, and action, each rooted in a shared vision of justice and liberation.



SCHOLARSHIP SUMMARY

The endowment grew over the past two years, providing expanded resources for student support. Iliff worked closely with the new Associate Dean of Students, Rev. Dr. Diane Bogues, to ensure that maximum funding reached those students in need.

TOTAL 2024-2025 SCHOLARSHIPS
\$976,995

TOTAL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS
95 STUDENTS

AVERAGE SCHOLARSHIP AWARD
\$10,284

RANGE OF SCHOLARSHIPS
\$805 TO \$20,000



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June 1, 2024 - May 31, 2025

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“Our legacy is
to help other
legacies go on.
It is not for us,
it is for the
future.”

- Ethel Phillips

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The Rev. Jay '88◇ and Dr. Kristen A. Rundell
Anita Sanborn ◇
Mrs. Jean Sarabia '82+
Mabel E. Sausaman+
Kent M. Savage '66
The Rev. Albert (Al) Scarffe '49+
The Rev. Paul + '62 and Elaine J. Scheibner
The Rev. Margaret E. Scheve '34+
The Rev. Dr. Scott Jay Schiesswohl '85 '06
Lee+ and Dolores Schlessman
Robert (Rod) M. and Gail Shattuck
Alberta Iliff Shattuck Trust
The Rev. James Sloan '75+

SYMBOL KEY

*** STAFF AND FACULTY**

**** BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

∞ HONORARY TRUSTEE

◇ FORMER TRUSTEE

Δ EMERITUS FACULTY

§ CURRENT STUDENT

+ DECEASED

FINANCIAL REPORT

Securing Tomorrow's Leaders, Today: This report details the financial health of Iliff School of Theology and demonstrates our commitment to responsible stewardship in support of our purpose. See how your dollars are at work.

FUNDRAISING PERFORMANCE

Year	21-22	22-23	23-24	24-25
Iliff Fundraising	\$3.01M	\$897K	\$996K	\$1.4M
United Methodist Ministerial Education Fund	\$636K	\$619K	\$543K	\$853K
Student Designated Grants	\$389K	\$301K	\$284K	\$252K
Total	\$4.03M	\$1.82M	\$1.82M	\$2.5M

GIFT SOURCES

Gift Source	Amount
Religious Organizations	\$1,032,113
Foundations	\$659,556
Friends	\$460,744
Corporations	\$241,975
Alumni/ae	\$120,675

GIFTS AND GRANTS

Ministerial Education Fund	\$852,706
Annual Scholarships & Programs	\$591,885
Annual Fund	\$259,352
Student Designated Grants	\$251,743
Endowed Unrestricted	\$162,014
Endowed Scholarships & Programs	\$159,289
Events	\$2,598

OPERATING REVENUES

Investment Income	\$4,308,402
Gifts, Grants, and Bequests	\$2,108,882
Net Tuition and Fees	\$812,675
Auxiliary and Other	\$261,671

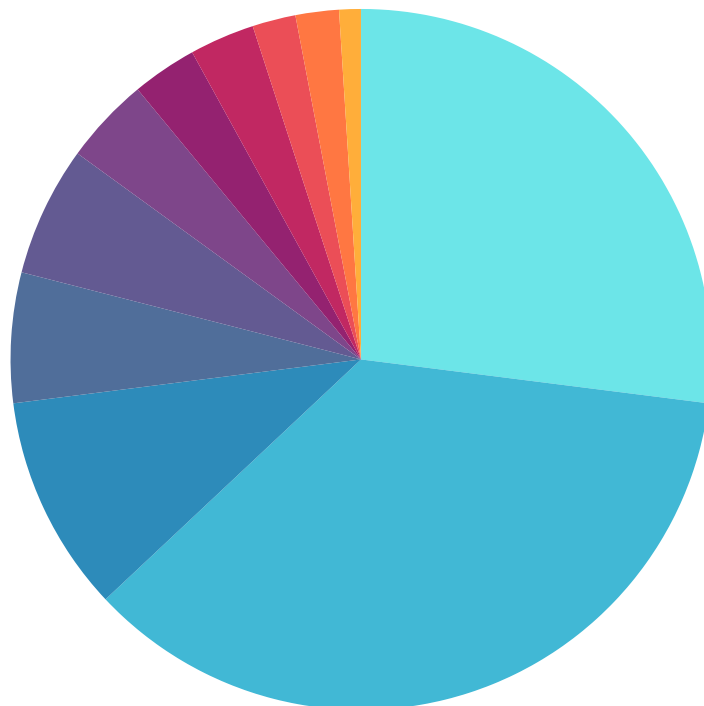
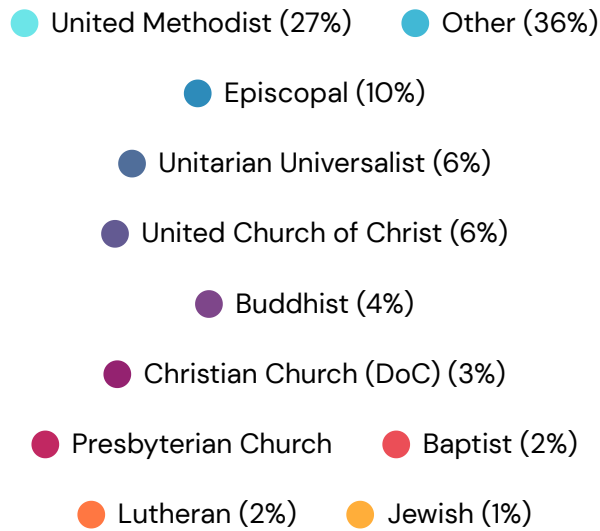
OPERATING EXPENSES

Instruction, Library, and Student Services	\$5,015,947
Institutional Support	\$2,440,957
Plant Operations	\$1,453,728
Institutional Advancement	\$316,973

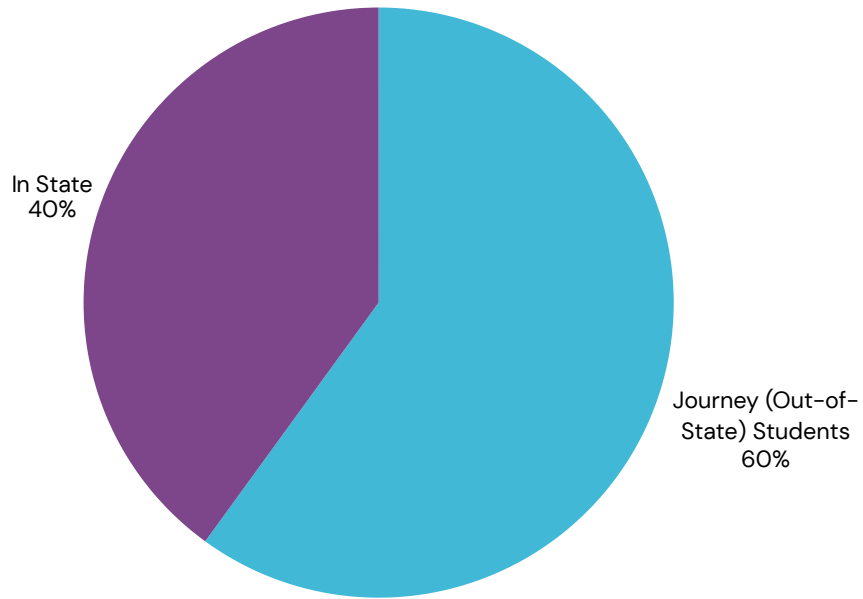
MOST RECENT STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

The following figures reflect the changing demographics of Iliff's student body. Behind each number is a name, story, and unique identity. We honor the richness each student brings to the Iliff community and we continue to foster an environment that reflects a variety of cultural and ethnic backgrounds.

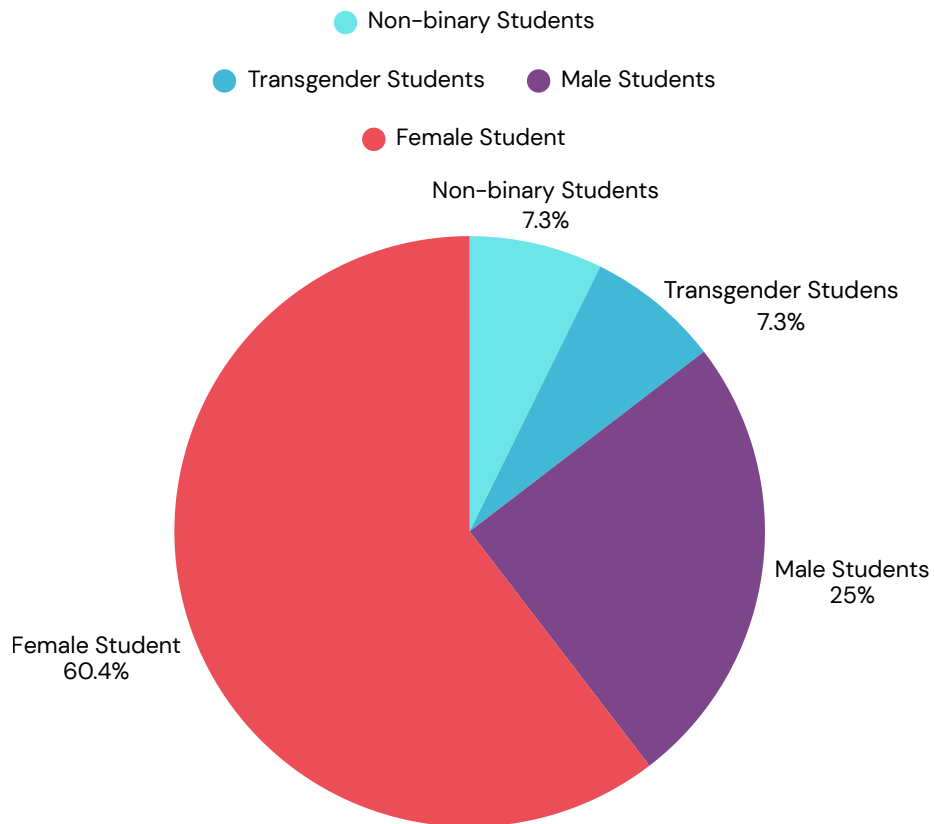
Student Body By Denomination



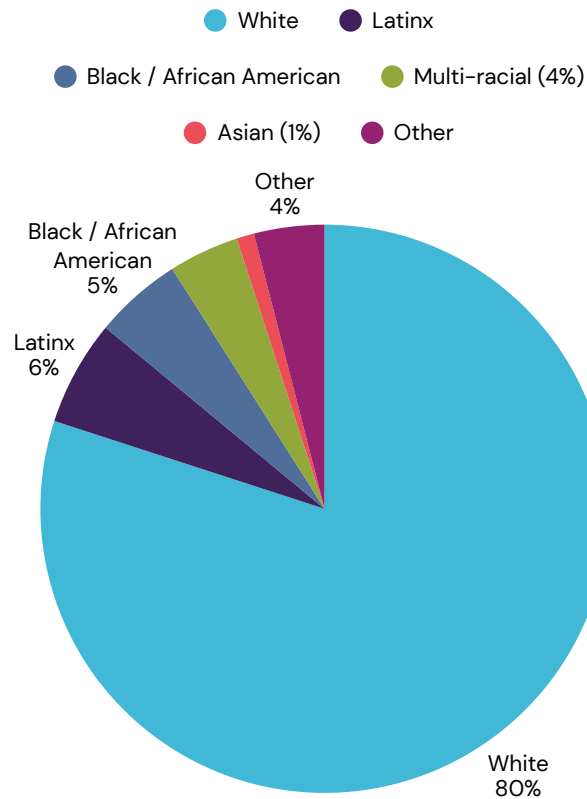
Student Body By Location



Student Body By Self-Identified Gender



Student Body By Self-Identified Racial & Ethnic Identities



What Students are Saying

“[Iliff] has been life-changing. Transforming. The friendships and everybody I’ve met. It’s treasured.”

- Carmen

“Iliff has been transformative. I feel much more equipped to be my real self in the world.”

- Ina

NEW STAFF

We appreciate the hard work and dedication of every faculty and staff member, Iliff exists because of you. We especially recognize the new faculty and staff who joined in 2024-2025.



Daryl Schreiber
Director of Marketing
and PR



Dilkush Khan
Communications
Specialist



Jake Paron
Event Sales and
Hospitality Manager

STAFF OF THE YEAR



Suzanne Mueller
Assistant Controller

Over the past few years, Suzanne has continued to take on additional responsibilities and provides leadership over many of our core business office and accounting functions.



iliff

SCHOOL *of* THEOLOGY

2323 E. Iliff Ave. Denver, CO 80210

800-678-3360