The McKelvey Family

The McKelvey family’s long-standing relationship with the university began over 70 years ago when the late James McKelvey Sr. enrolled in the engineering school to pursue his master’s and doctoral degrees in chemical engineering. In 1957, he joined the faculty and quickly advanced, becoming the seventh dean of the university’s engineering school in 1964. Although he officially retired as dean in 1991, Dean McKelvey continued teaching in the Department of Energy, Environmental & Chemical Engineering through the 2007–08 academic year. He assisted with the engineering school’s efforts for Leading Together: The Campaign for Washington University and served on the campaign’s Planned Giving Committee. Dean McKelvey passed away in 2019.

His son, Jim McKelvey Jr., earned his bachelor’s degrees in economics and computer science from Washington University in 1987. He is one of the university’s most outstanding alumni and a member of the Board of Trustees. Jim co-founded the revolutionary mobile payments company Square Inc. and LaunchCode, a nonprofit organization that helps find and train workers for technology careers. He currently serves as an independent director of the St. Louis Federal Reserve and as CEO of Invisibly, a micropayments company he started in 2016.

Jim is an exceptional benefactor to Washington University. The university recognized him with an Alumni Achievement Award from the engineering school in 2012 and a 2017 Robert S. Brookings Award for his outstanding generosity and dedication. Through a leadership commitment in 2016, Jim made possible a new building, James M. McKelvey, Sr. Hall, which honors his father’s remarkable legacy. In recognition of Jim’s generous support, the school was renamed the James McKelvey School of Engineering in 2019.
The McKelvey School of Engineering is at a critical juncture, poised to have a tremendous impact on society. Trustee Jim McKelvey Jr. and his wife, Anna, have made a major commitment to usher in this new era of achievement.

As part of their pledge, the couple has established the McKelvey Engineering New Eliot Society Member Challenge, which gives alumni, parents, and friends the opportunity to secure a transformative gift for the school by making their own contributions to the McKelvey Engineering Annual Fund.

Your annual gift at the Eliot Society level will help the engineering school:

- Increase support for scholarships, graduate fellowships, and undergraduate research.
- Ensure that our 30+ engineering student organizations have the support they need for projects and programming.
- Enhance instructional lab equipment.
- Recruit and retain esteemed professors.

Why Join the William Greenleaf Eliot Society?

Annual Fund gifts of $1,000 or more qualify for membership in the Eliot Society, which comes with several benefits including:

- Invitations to special regional events.
- Parking privileges on the Danforth Campus. (Restrictions and/or campus parking rules and regulations apply.)

Visit eliotsociety.wustl.edu for a full list of benefits and more information.

How the Challenge Works

Your participation in the challenge will help the McKelvey School of Engineering earn the challenge amount of $30 million committed by Trustee Jim McKelvey Jr. and his wife, Anna. The McKelvey Engineering New Eliot Society Member Challenge is offered only for gifts to the McKelvey School of Engineering made through June 30, 2022.

The challenge will match new engineering Eliot memberships over a three-year pledge period. It gives you the opportunity to join the Eliot Society and support the Engineering Annual Fund with a starting gift of only $500.

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Levels of Eliot Society Membership

- Eliot Society Member: $1,000–$2,499
- Eliot Society Fellow: $2,500–$4,999
- Eliot Society Benefactor: $5,000–$9,999
- Eliot Society Patron: $10,000–$24,999
- Danforth Circle
  - Dean’s Level: $25,000–$49,999
  - Chancellor’s Level: $50,000 or more

Your gift to Washington University is tax deductible to the extent allowed by U.S. and Canadian law.

Yes! I/We will participate in the McKelvey Engineering New Eliot Society Member Challenge.

- I/We will give: $500 (Year 1) $500
- I/We will give: $750 (Year 2) $250
- I/We will give: $1,000 (Year 3) $0

If your employer matches your charitable contributions, your gift may include your company’s match.

Each annual payment must be received by June 30 of that year. The fiscal year runs July 1 to June 30.

Please designate my/our gift to support the McKelvey School of Engineering:

- Annual Fund
- Student Project Fund
- Annual Scholarships
- Women & Engineering

- I/We have the following preference for scholarship selection:
  - Need
  - Merit
  - Either

- My/Our first pledge payment of $___________ is enclosed.
- Please send reminders for remaining pledge payments.
- This gift will be matched by Name of company—please enclose matching gift form.

Name(s) ____________________________
Address ____________________________
City __________ State ______ ZIP ________
Telephone (__________) Home Business Cell
Preferred email _______________________

Payment Options

- Check (Please make checks payable to Washington University.)
- Credit card
- I/We intend to recommend this gift* via:
  - a donor-advised fund
  - a family foundation

- Other: ____________________________

Credit card information

- Amex
- Discover
- Mastercard
- Visa

Acct. No. ____________ Exp. Date _________

Name on Card ____________________________

Signature ____________________________

Please print.

*If your gift or pledge will be paid from a donor-advised fund or private foundation, your gift will be an “intention” and not a legally binding pledge.