

Foreword

The *Boston College Fact Book* is a summary of significant statistics gathered from various sources throughout the University. Once again, we wish to extend sincere thanks and appreciation for the excellent cooperation and assistance received from these many sources.

The purpose of the *Fact Book* is to produce a single-source publication and reference document that touches upon and integrates all aspects of the institution's people and its operations. The majority of the information is extracted from management reports produced on a regular basis by the various source offices. When reviewing the figures presented we advise you always to note the time frame referenced in the individual tables, and to contact responsible offices (noted at the bottom of each table) should you have further questions.

With this 29th edition, we continue our efforts to produce a *Fact Book* that provides both current information and an historical perspective. We welcome your comments and suggestions for additional information that might be included or improvements in the way information is presented.

Kristin R. Furino & Ivy R. Dodge, Editors
April 2001

The Mission of Boston College

Strengthened by more than a century and a quarter of dedication to academic excellence, Boston College commits itself to the highest standards of teaching and research in undergraduate, graduate and professional programs and to the pursuit of a just society through its own accomplishments, the work of its faculty and staff, and the achievements of its graduates. It seeks both to advance its place among the nation's finest universities and to bring to the company of its distinguished peers and to contemporary society the richness of the Catholic intellectual ideal of a mutually illuminating relationship between religious faith and free intellectual inquiry.

Boston College draws inspiration for its academic and societal mission from its distinctive religious tradition. As a Catholic and Jesuit university, it is rooted in a world view that encounters God in all creation and through all human activity, especially in the search for truth in every discipline, in the desire to learn, and in the call to live justly together. In this spirit, the University regards the contribution of different religious traditions and value systems as essential to the fullness of its intellectual life and to the continuous development of its distinctive intellectual heritage.

Boston College pursues this distinctive mission by serving society in three ways:

- by fostering the rigorous intellectual development and the religious, ethical and personal formation of its undergraduate, graduate and professional students in order to prepare them for citizenship, service and leadership in a global society;
- by producing nationally and internationally significant research that advances insight and understanding, thereby both enriching culture and addressing important societal needs; and
- by committing itself to advance the dialogue between religious belief and other formative elements of culture through the intellectual inquiry, teaching and learning, and the community life that form the University.

Boston College fulfills this mission with a deep concern for all members of its community, with a recognition of the important contribution a diverse student body, faculty and staff can offer, with a firm commitment to academic freedom, and with a determination to exercise careful stewardship of its resources in pursuit of its academic goals.

Source: Approved by the Board of Trustees, May 31, 1996