

Frequently Asked Questions Regarding the Spirit of Lincoln Fund:

What is the primary use of the Spirit of Lincoln Fund?

The Spirit of Lincoln Fund was established in 2017 in anticipation of the State of Illinois' bicentennial year. The Fund is unrestricted to the Lincoln Academy to advance its work in fulfilling its mission to honor distinguished Illinoisans by birth or residence and to inspire the next generation of leaders in Illinois by celebrating an outstanding senior from each of the four-year degree-granting institutions of higher learning in Illinois and one student from Illinois' community college system who have demonstrated leadership and service in the pursuit of the betterment of humanity.

How much would the Academy like to raise for the Spirit of Lincoln Fund?

The Academy has an initial target goal of \$1.5 million by the end of calendar year 2018 for gifts to the Spirit of Lincoln Fund. This initial goal, while being an unrestricted endowment, is initially intended to provide support for the student laureate awards. Ultimately, by raising support for these awards, we hope to expand the amount of the award (currently \$1,000 per student) and expand the programming and reach of the Academy in how we fulfill our mission to honor and celebrate leaders of today and next generation leaders.

May I restrict my gift to a specific use within the Academy?

While unrestricted endowment is important for the Academy to advance its work and relevancy into perpetuity, donors with a gift of at least \$100,000 may restrict and designate their support to a specific initiative of the academy. For example, the Malott Family established the Elizabeth Hubert Malott Education Endowment Fund exclusively to support the Student Laureate initiatives. The income from those funds is used exclusively for student laureate awards and programming.

Who is the administrator for the Spirit of Lincoln Fund:

The Lincoln Academy of Illinois has formalized a partnership with the Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln (CFLI) through a competitive Request for Proposal process. CFLI provides a framework to allow for excellence in stewardship of the resources entrusted to our care through providing investment management, guidance on endowment spending policies, receipting of gifts, acceptance of complex assets (real estate, appreciated securities, closely-held stock) and the ability to offer donors more intricate giving instruments (i.e. charitable remainder trusts, charitable gift annuities, retained life estates).

What is the payout rate of the Spirit of Lincoln Fund?

The Regents of the Academy in consultation with the Trustees evaluate the endowment payout annually. The Academy's goal is to ensure a steady stream of income to support the designated uses allowable by the donor but also in line with Academy priorities as they evolve over time. It is anticipated that no distributions will be made from the Spirit of Lincoln Fund until the initial goal of \$1.5 million for phase one is achieved.

What type of fund is the Spirit of Lincoln Fund?

Gifts to the Spirit of Lincoln Fund will be held in a "quasi endowment." This means that while the long-term intention of the Academy is to hold these funds in perpetuity, the Academy may invade principal to support the work of the Academy in accordance with any donor restricts imposed by the donor at the time of the gift.