

CONVERSE

LEADERS OF TOMORROW

*Welcoming the Newest
Generation of Future Alumni*



Fall 2025



As an integral part of our community, you know firsthand what makes 580 East Main Street so special. From the supportive mentorship of faculty, to the close-knit community that fosters confidence and leadership, Converse has always been defined by transformative programs and experiences that prepare students not only for careers, but for lives of meaning and purpose.

Yet, across the country, colleges and universities are confronting new realities: shifting demographics, rising costs, and the evolving needs of students preparing for a rapidly changing workforce. Too often, the national narrative focuses on closures, consolidations, or reductions. But in this challenging environment, Converse is moving forward with clarity and resolve. We are:

- **Investing in excellence:** Channeling resources toward innovative, high-impact programs that define the Converse experience and give students a competitive edge in a global environment.
- **Streamlining for strength:** Focusing on key mission-aligned priorities to ensure Converse remains both resilient and future-focused.
- **Continuing careful stewardship:** Using our resources in impactful and thoughtful ways to propel our university toward permanent financial stability.
- **Remaining true to our mission:** Delivering the personalized education and leadership preparation that has been Converse's hallmark for more than 135 years.

But we cannot do this alone. The generosity of our community has always been the driving force behind our progress - and right now, we need you. Join us on November 6 for our annual day of giving, Rock the Tower. Our goal this year is \$225,000 in gifts to the Converse Fund. **Every gift, no matter the size, is a demonstration of confidence in Converse's future.**

Alumni, donors, families, and friends, I ask that you rise to this moment. Together, we can face these headwinds and ensure that our distinctive programs continue to impact the next generation of leaders— **now** and **forever**.

Sincerely,

Boone J. Hopkins, PhD
President



Welcome Week 2025

Move-In Day and Welcome Week officially kicked off the academic year in true Converse style. New and returning students, along with their families, were met with warm welcomes from staff, student-athletes, and faculty who helped them settle in.

This fall, Converse welcomes:

- 262 first-year students joining from across the U.S. and 16 countries
- 173 first-generation students
- 164 student-athletes
- 72 Converse College for Women students
- Five new faculty members
- The return of the First Day Ready program, ensuring textbooks & supplies are ready by day one for all students
- The Guidebook app to help students engage with campus life

Our beloved campus is once again buzzing with energy. Stay connected with us this year. This fall provides wonderful opportunities to celebrate community and to be part of what makes Converse truly special.



Convocation 2025

Converse formally celebrated the start of the academic year with Opening Convocation on September 19, 2025.

This time-honored tradition included a keynote address by the winner of our Kathryn Amelia Brown Award for Excellence in Teaching, Dr. Allison Vick.

View full photo albums at converse.edu/magazine.





A Legacy of Resilience

Photo by Patrick Treharne '25

September 27, 2024: the day campus life came to a screeching halt.

Initially not predicted to affect Spartanburg, Hurricane Helene shifted its path at the last minute and headed straight toward the city, leaving Converse and much of the area with many downed trees and without power for days. Despite personal losses, faculty and staff immediately stepped in to support our residential students.

In the days and weeks that followed, emergency responders and the Converse community worked side by side to restore campus and uplift one another.

The morale of our community triumphed as power was slowly restored and trees were removed from the grounds. By October 7, 2024, the campus officially reopened, resilient, united, and stronger than before.

From organizing drives for Valkyrie Supply and campus cleanup initiatives to hosting a pop-up art sale with a percentage of the sales going to hurricane victims, Converse stepped up and held steadfast to one of our seven core values—**community**.

Read our full reflection on the year since Helene and learn more about our continued recovery efforts at converse.edu/magazine.

Opportunities to engage with the Converse community

Visit converse.edu/events to view our full schedule and to RSVP!



OCT 31 - NOV 1, 2025 HOMECOMING

Celebrate Homecoming & Family Weekend with a two-day campus celebration filled with music, food, student showcases, athletics, and community spirit!



DECEMBER 4, 2025 LESSONS AND CAROLS

Festival of Lessons and Carols celebrates the Christmas season with traditional carols and hymns, along with student-led scripture readings.

Community News



Full Circle Impact

Susan Miskelly '97 continues to give her time, talent, and treasures to Converse by serving as Communications Strategist on the Alumni Association Board and making a monthly gift to the Converse Fund.

What do you love most about being a Converse alum?

“Converse really taught me a lot about myself and the value of that has continued all through my adult life - the value of a liberal arts education. Also, just the sense of community and support that has always existed on the Converse campus. Being able to find my voice and figure out who I was during that pivotal time of life - those lessons learned have really carried through my entire life ever since I graduated.”

Why is it meaningful to you to support Converse and its future students?

“I think it’s important to give back to Converse because she has given so much to me. And I want future generations of students to be able to have the same experience and benefit of a Converse education that I had.”

Learn more about Susan’s impact and how you can support the Converse Fund at converse.edu/give.



CONVERSE RISES IN RANKINGS

Converse has once again been honored in the U.S. News & World Report’s 2026 Best Colleges rankings for Regional Universities in the South. The university ranked 8th for Best Value, 12th (tie) for Social Mobility, and 33rd overall (tie) in the Regional Universities (South), rising in the ranks for each category.



CHAMPIONING FIRST-GEN SUCCESS

FirstGen Forward recently announced Converse as one of 60 new members of the FirstGen Forward Network for 2025-26. To be selected, Converse displayed a demonstrated commitment to improving experiences and advancing success for first-generation college students.

Read more community news at converse.edu/magazine

November 6, 2025

#ROCKTHETOWER

This year, your support is not just important — it is essential.

The challenges facing higher education are real, but together, we can ensure that Converse continues to deliver on its promise of a transformative, student-focused education.

Your participation in Rock the Tower **WILL** make the difference. Collectively, gifts to the Converse Fund fuel the resilience of our university, strengthen our ability to face headwinds, and ensure that future generations can thrive at Converse.

We cannot do this without you. Your support today will help secure the promise of Converse — now and for generations to come.

converse.edu/rockthetower



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