

# Honoring Dr. Gary McCaleb



Few people in ACU's history have embodied hospitality and community building more than Dr. Gary McCaleb. McCaleb's career included administrative leadership of nearly every aspect of Abilene Christian: alumni relations, fundraising and development, public relations, student life, and athletics. Additionally, he had a distinguished career in public service, including two terms on the Abilene City Council, three terms as mayor, and leadership roles in the Texas Municipal League, as well as serving on the advisory boards of the National League of Cities and the U.S. Conference of Mayors, and as the U.S. representative to the World Executive Committee of the International Union of Local Authorities. In many ways, McCaleb was and remains the quintessential ambassador for the university and community. This endowed scholarship program will honor his work and allow his legacy to continue by producing ACU graduates with the leadership and diplomatic qualities McCaleb embodied to serve Abilene Christian University and the City of Abilene.



## Implementation & Oversight

Oversight of the McCaleb Student Ambassadors will be under the ACU Center for Building Community and the selected students will be part of the LYNAY Service and Leadership Program. Placing the ambassadors within this group is a fitting tribute as Dr. McCaleb founded these organizations at ACU more than 20 years ago to teach servant leadership and hospitality. These students would hold this position throughout their undergraduate studies at ACU.

## Benefits to the University

Currently, ACU does not offer any full-tuition scholarships to high-achieving students. With this program, we will be able to attract, recruit, and retain a population of highly recruited students who have historically opted for other schools. This, in turn, can further enhance the reputation and prestige of the university on a national level.



# MCCALEB STUDENT AMBASSADORS

ACU Center for Building Community



## Center for Building Community

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# Executive Summary



The McCaleb Student Ambassador program will honor the legacy of the former mayor of Abilene and ACU administrator Dr. Gary McCaleb.

## About the Program

Each year, 8-10 incoming freshman students will be selected to participate in this prestigious program. They will serve as ambassadors throughout their undergraduate careers. **As McCaleb Ambassadors, students will receive a full tuition scholarship to attend ACU.**

The College Student Ambassador is a highly visible role and should be a leader, role model, and excellent representative of Abilene Christian University. In this role, the student is actively involved in the life of ACU, representing the university to the public, visitors, and fellow students.

## Student Ambassador Responsibilities

- Meeting with the board of trustees
- Meeting prospective students and guests
- Leading service projects
- Mentoring younger students
- Attending monthly lunch meetings



*Additionally, the student ambassador may also be expected to attend school events, such as sporting events, plays, and concerts, as well as work with other student organizations to promote the school in the community.*

# Fundraising Goal

Our fundraising goal for this initiative is to raise an endowment corpus of \$5,000,000. This will enable us to scholarship 8-10 McCaleb Ambassadors each year. Our plan is to approach donors who wish to honor Dr. McCaleb for his more than 50-year career at Abilene Christian University as well as his time serving the community as mayor of Abilene.

# Benefit to Students



**Financial Support:** One of the significant benefits of the McCaleb Student Ambassador program is that it provides financial support for highly qualified students. By receiving this scholarship, students can focus on their studies and activities without worrying about the cost of their education.

# 01



**Leadership Development:** The program provides opportunities for students to take on leadership roles, such as representing the university at events or giving campus tours. These experiences help students develop their communication, team-building, and problem-solving skills.

# 02



**Professional Networking:** As ambassadors, students will interact with a wide range of people, including faculty, staff, alumni, and potential employers. These interactions can lead to valuable professional connections that help students secure internships, jobs, and other career opportunities.

# 03



**Enhanced Résumé:** Being a student ambassador can help enhance a student's résumé and set them apart from other job or graduate school applicants. Involvement demonstrates a commitment to their university, leadership ability, and communication skills, all of which are highly valued by employers.

# 04



**Personal Growth:** Participating in the student ambassador program can also be a personally rewarding experience. It can help students develop a sense of pride in their accomplishments and their university and can give them a greater sense of confidence in their abilities.

# 05