Plato gave land to his disciples in order to maintain his Academy. Today, endowed professorships are among the most important gifts to higher education.

At Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, endowed professorships—often known as chairs—recognize, support, and help us to recruit superior faculty. Guaranteeing support in perpetuity ensures sustainability for our medical school.

As endowed professorships provide annual funds to support faculty salaries, research, teaching, and/or the service activities of exceptional faculty members, other income streams become value added. For example, if a faculty member attracts research grant support, an endowed salary ensures that all of the new money can go to support the research, thereby improving the chances for scientific progress, as well as opportunities for future research support.

To date, the Feinberg School of Medicine has 126 endowed professorships. As part of our Campaign for Northwestern Medicine, we hope to raise funds to create 50 new endowed professorships. These chairs are fully funded at $3 million each and are expected to grow in their principal while paying out approximately $150,000 per year to the recipient. Such professorships have typically been awarded to the most accomplished—and often quite senior faculty. We increasingly plan to support faculty earlier in their careers in order to ensure preeminence in their fields.

Historically, endowed professorships have been career-long for the holder. At the medical school, we now review endowed professorship recipients every five years to be certain that the resources are being used most effectively and continue to reflect the wishes of our generous donors.

Please help us reach our campaign goal by investing in our best and brightest faculty. In doing so, you will help us change the world.
“The availability of endowed professorships empower us at Feinberg to recruit top-tier physicians and scientists to direct high-impact, high-return research programs. Through these perpetual endowments, we are able to recruit and retain a cadre of innovative leaders who not only intellectually stimulate our superb faculty, but also mentor and challenge our junior faculty, trainees, and medical students in all they do.”

Eric G. Neilson, MD, Vice President for Medical Affairs and Lewis Landsberg Dean

For an updated listing of all endowed professorships at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, please visit:
http://www.feinberg.northwestern.edu/giving/invest/professorships/named-professorships.html