

Welcome from the Sister Thea Bowman Center



June 05, 2026

Welcome to Notre Dame!

You made it. And we are so glad you're here.

As you prepare for Welcome Weekend and the beginning of an extraordinary new chapter, we want you to know about a place that was built with you in mind: [the Sister Thea Bowman Center](#).

Sister Thea was a trailblazer — a woman of deep faith, joy, and unwavering conviction that every person deserves to be seen, celebrated, and known fully. In her own words: "I bring myself, my whole history, my traditions, my experience, my culture — as a gift." The Bowman Center carries that same spirit forward, and we extend that same invitation to you: come as you are, bring all that you are, and know that your whole self is welcome here.

The Center is home to three communities dedicated to your growth and belonging:

- [Multicultural Student Programs and Services](#)
- [The Gender Relations Center](#)
- [The Office of Student Enrichment](#)

Together, they offer mentorship, identity exploration, leadership development, and — perhaps most importantly — a space where you can exhale, be yourself, and find your people. We know that college transitions can bring unexpected loneliness, and the Bowman Center exists precisely to make sure no student has to carry that alone.

We'd love for you to experience the Bowman Center firsthand during Welcome Weekend.

[Join us for our Open House](#)
Friday, August 21 | 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Second Floor, LaFortune Student Center

At 2:00 p.m., we'll gather for a brief welcome that includes a warm introduction to the

Center and its mission, real stories from students who found community and belonging here, and a chance to connect with student organizations tied to the Bowman Center.

Come for five minutes or stay all afternoon — either way, you'll leave knowing there's a place here that's yours.

We are not just excited for you to join Notre Dame. We are excited for Notre Dame to be shaped by who you are — your story, your perspective, your gifts. The Sister Thea Bowman Center is here to walk with you, cheer for you, and help you build a community that truly feels like home.

See you soon. God bless and Go Irish!

With joy,

Doug Thompson, PhD
Executive Director for Belonging and Engagement
Division of Student Affairs



Welcome Weekend

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