Dear Colgate Community Member,

You're probably wondering why I created this website. I had voiced my endowment concerns for many years through the Development Office. As performance deteriorated and disclosure dried up, my worries intensified, prompting me to look more closely and communicate my concerns more directly. I was told "we're comfortable with our approach." More formal pleas in 2025 were largely ignored so I decided it was time to bring the broader Colgate community into the discussion.

My experience at Colgate was life-changing in so many ways: educationally, socially, and personal growth-wise. I met my best friend for life playing pickup basketball on Cotterell Court my first week freshman year. I've stayed in touch with one of my academic mentors, Tom Brackett, serving on his non-profit board for 10 years. A President's Club member for decades, my philanthropic commitment deepened considerably when my daughter, Sophie '13, also had a fantastic experience and met her future husband there. Like you, I care deeply about Colgate.

Several years ago, I became quite alarmed when I realized Colgate was following many other universities into the opaque and expensive world of alternative private investments. As an investment professional, I understood it was highly improbable that a smaller institution like Colgate would possess the necessary resources, expertise, or investment access to succeed in this realm. My own background, as a fund manager at Fidelity for more than two decades, is firmly rooted in traditional public markets, where disclosure and oversight are high and fees are low.

Colgate does not disclose who serves on the Investment Committee, how the endowment performs against its peers, or what its strategy costs. So rather than rely on assurances, I did the work myself. This site documents how Colgate's peer schools manage their endowments — and what that has meant for their students. The pattern is structural: the peers that outperform Colgate all chose professional management, transparency for stakeholders, and the governance to change course when necessary. I'm asking Colgate to make the same choice.

I hope you will stand with me by signing this petition.

Thank you,

Mark Sommer '82 P'13, CFA