

NEWS FROM

A STATE OF MINDS

The Campaign for West Virginia's University

Campaign nears \$920 million

WVU is well on its way to meeting its \$1 billion goal in *A State of Minds: The Campaign for West Virginia's University*.

New gifts and pledges totaled \$917.2 million through Sept. 30, 2015, or nearly 92 percent of the goal with more than two years left in the Campaign. That represents an increase of \$19 million over the past three months.

"Our focus now is *when* we'll meet our billion dollar goal, and how far past that billion we will go," said WVU Foundation President and CEO Cindi Roth. "The key word is momentum. Our alumni and friends, corporate and foundation partners have really risen to the occasion, and we're extremely grateful for their generosity. Our team is going to keep working hard because we know the needs of the University are great."

Through Sept. 30, 2015, 80,927 donors have contributed to the Campaign, including 33,820 alumni and over 6,000 corporations.

Since the beginning of the Campaign, 652 student scholarships have been created; 50 endowed faculty

chairs and professorships have been started; and 192 new research funds have been added.

"I am enormously grateful for the gifts and pledges we have received from so many alumni and friends," said WVU President Gordon Gee. "It demonstrates that people want to invest in a place that is dear to their hearts – and a place that changes lives. Our students, our state and our world depend on us."

The University's "Dream First" initiative, an effort to raise \$50 million for undergraduate scholarships and fellowships as part of the *State of Minds* Campaign, has raised more than half of its goal, \$25.2 million.

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Potomac State receives \$4.2 million donation

A transformational \$4.2 million gift to Potomac State College of WVU's Agriculture and Forestry Programs – the largest in the school's history – will result in the launch of entrepreneurial education courses designed to promote sustainable agriculture.

The donation from J. Duncan Smith, a successful businessman who has had a life-long passion for agriculture, will be used to implement a two-year associate of applied science degree and the development of a four-year bachelor of applied science degree designed to teach students the skills needed to create or expand an agricultural business.

The donation comes in two parts – monetary and gift-in-kind. The monetary gift of approximately \$3 million will fund three endowments in memory of the Gerstell family – relatives of Mr. Smith – that will be used to support program development, classroom/lab enhancements, farm operations, student scholarships, faculty development, student experiential learning, and facility enhancements to the Deremer Farm in Fort Ashby, W.Va., which was donated to the College in 2010 through the Deremer family's estate plan. The gift-in-kind includes a 364-acre plot of farmland valued at approximately \$1.3 million that sits adjacent to the Deremer Farm.

Family responds with scholarly act after tragedy

Students from Brooke County High School in West Virginia's Northern Panhandle may have no idea who Michael Cipoletti is, but they may get to study business at WVU because of him.

Michael Paul Cipoletti, a native of Wellsburg, W.Va., tragically lost his life at age 48 in an automobile accident on Jan. 11, 2011. His sudden death devastated his extensive and tight-knit network of family and friends, but they decided to respond in the best way they could — with opportunity.

"Mike was a graduate of the College of Business and Economics (B&E)," said Bonnie Cipoletti Anderson, director of alumni relations and assistant director of development at WVU's business school. "He loved all things WVU including the business school. We thought the best way we could combat the sadness of his death was to create a scholarship in his honor and memory."

Anderson, a cousin to Michael and 30-year employee at WVU, accepted her current position in early 2012. In her development capacity, she learned details about how scholarships come about.

"Mike's 50th birthday would have been during the summer of 2012. That motivated me to rally the troops. I reached out to approximately 30 family and friends, many of whom were WVU graduates," Anderson said.



The Cipoletti Family

She wanted to see if those she contacted would give a one-time gift or make a pledge over the course of a few years. The result of the effort is a scholarship to a Brooke High School graduate majoring in business at WVU.

"In a very short time," Anderson recalled, "I secured a commitment of \$25,000 with which we would create the Michael P. Cipoletti Memorial Scholarship. On July 4, 2012, we all gathered at his parents' house and surprised them with the news that we were creating this legacy in his name that will live on at WVU."

The first scholarship in Cipoletti's name was awarded in 2013, and is one of three scholarships available to Brooke High School students through the WVU College of Business and Economics.

Stitzel establishes Harriet E. Lyon endowed professorship

In 1889 — 22 years after WVU opened its doors to students — the first 10 women entered the University as degree candidates. Among them was Harriet E. Lyon, who had transferred from Vassar College.

Two years later, Lyon would become WVU's first female graduate, finishing at the top of her class.

In honor of Lyon and the rich legacy of women students at the University, Judith Gold Stitzel, founding director of the Center for Women's and Gender Studies, has established a first-of-its-kind professorship that recognizes, emphasizes

and supports the interdisciplinary role of women's and gender studies throughout the University.

The professorship will allow faculty from any department or program within WVU and its satellite campuses to apply for a two-to-three year, part-time appointment to teach and/or conduct research as a part of the Center for Women's and Gender Studies.



Judith Gold Stitzel

Alumni couple leaves \$1 million for student scholarships, research

WVU has received nearly \$1.1 million from the Hazel L. Sutton Trust to establish new endowed scholarships within three WVU colleges and fund research initiatives at the Blanchette Rockefeller Neurosciences Institute.

The donation from the late Hazel L. and John L. Sutton of Elkins provides:

- \$450,000 for scholarships for students in the WVU School of Medicine
- \$180,000 for scholarships for students in the WVU School of Dentistry
- \$150,000 for scholarships for students in the WVU College of Business and Economics

Also, \$300,000 will benefit research projects and operations within the BRNI, a not-for-profit research institution that partners with government and private enterprise in the search for cures to cognitive disorders.

The scholarship portion of Sutton Trust gift will count toward the “Dream First” scholarship initiative, an effort publically announced earlier this year by WVU President Gordon Gee to raise \$50 million for student scholarships.



Hazel and John Sutton both graduated from WVU's Eberly College in 1938.

Gift to aid vision research at Eye Institute

Research at the WVU Eye Institute will be advanced by a gift from Dr. Jodie Trotter of Morgantown made in honor of her late husband, Dr. Robert R. Trotter.

The Drs. Robert R. and Jodie Trotter Vision Research Fund will provide support to clinical and bench research, and have a significant impact on the Eye Institute's researchers' ability to find better ways of treating eye disease and preventing blindness that will impact West Virginians and beyond. Dr. Jodie Trotter has had a relationship with the Department of Ophthalmology long before it moved to the Eye Institute when it opened its doors in 2001. Dr. Trotter's husband, Robert R. Trotter, M.D., was the founder and first chairman of the Department of Ophthalmology at the WVU School of Medicine.



Dr. Visvanathan Ramamurthy, director of the Vision Research Center, Dr. Tony Realini, director of clinical research, Dr. Jodie Trotter, and Dr. Ronald Gross, chair of the Department of Ophthalmology and director of the WVU Eye Institute standing with a portrait of Dr. Robert Trotter, founding chair of the Department of Ophthalmology

McGuane Foundation establishes scholarships with \$1.6 million gift

Five new endowed undergraduate scholarships are being created through a \$1.6 million gift from The McGuane Foundation, established to support schools and promote education in West Virginia.

Alumnus Michael McGuane and his wife, Catherine Tassone McGuane, of Key Biscayne, Fla., made the donation to benefit students from four West Virginia counties – Marshall, Ohio, Tyler and Wetzel. The scholarships will count toward the \$50 million “Dream First” scholarship initiative.

“We extend a heartfelt thank you to the McGuanes for their generosity in making the dreams of many current and future students come true,” said B.J. Davisson, Foundation senior vice president of development and chief development officer. “It's truly wonderful when those who have attended WVU want others to experience the same or greater opportunities. The McGuanes are a great example of our caring and passionate base of alumni and friends.”

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New scholarship will help honors music students

A new scholarship will honor the memory of a dedicated educator and music lover. The Florence H. Freeman Honors Music Scholarship will provide financial support to students enrolled in WVU's School of Music and Honors College.

Freeman, originally from Beckley, W.Va., earned a degree in English from WVU, where she was an active member of Alpha Delta Pi sorority. She taught for many years and was a community organizer in Michigan and New York.

Florence was an avid musician, according to her husband, Thomas M. Freeman, Ph.D., also a WVU

graduate and a retired professor and academic administrator.

"She played piano and organ at an accomplished level," Thomas said. "She sang in church choirs, in music festivals, and was a founding member of the Friendship Singers, a popular group in New York's Albany area."

The scholarship was established by her husband and her sons, Mark T. Freeman, an attorney and senior vice president at Key Bank in Cleveland, and Dr. Kevin W. Freeman, a research scientist at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis.



WVU President Gordon Gee greets alumnus Bill Douglas at the Foundation's annual tailgate tent prior to the WVU-Maryland football game.



University representatives recently celebrated a \$6.7 million gift from the Hazel Ruby McQuain Charitable Trust as they broke ground on a new equine educational facility at the J.W. Ruby Research Farm.