

NEWS FROM

A STATE OF MINDS

The Campaign for West Virginia's University

The push to \$1 billion: 'State of Minds' Campaign tops \$950M

WVU's effort to raise \$1 billion has reached another milestone. New gifts and pledges to "A State of Minds: The Campaign for West Virginia's University" totaled nearly \$953 million through March 31, or more than 95 percent of the goal with 21 months remaining in the Campaign.

"Our achievement updates every three months of this Campaign continue to show steady progress toward our goal," WVU Foundation President and CEO Cindi Roth said. "Our alumni and friends, foundation and corporate partners have shown tremendous support, and we want to thank each and every donor."

The number of donors to the Campaign through March 31 totaled 82,007, making 326,457 gifts. This includes donations from 34,988 alumni and more than 6,200 corporations.

Through the Campaign, donors have created 665 endowed scholarships, 26 endowed faculty chairs, 25 endowed

professorships, and 201 new funds to assist research efforts at WVU.

The University's "Dream First" initiative, a focused effort begun last year to raise \$50 million for undergraduate scholarships and fellowships as part of the "State of Minds" Campaign, has raised more \$39 million, or 78 percent of its goal.

"We know the needs of the University remain great, and now is the time to join us in this effort," Roth added. "We invite all alumni and friends to be part of this historic Campaign. Let's go!"

To learn more about the Campaign and how to make a donation, visit astateofminds.com

INSIDE

Sharik Endowment 2

Billman Gift..... 3

Alumni Weekend 4



Future students from Wood County to benefit from \$10 million scholarship gift

Mary "Mickey" Welch understands the importance of education. So much, that the Parkersburg, W.Va., resident is giving \$10 million to WVU to create two endowed scholarship funds for future state students from Wood County.

The money will come to the WVU Foundation from six charitable remainder unitrusts established by Welch when each terminates in 15 years. Nine-point-five (\$9.5) million dollars will be used to establish the Mary "Mickey" Welch Scholars Program, while

\$500,000 will create the Mary "Mickey" Welch Wood County 4-H Scholarship Fund.

"I'm very grateful to be in a position to support our young people," said Welch. "To be able to help future generations of students from Wood County further their education is such a great feeling. WVU is a major player in our area and the state, so it was a logical choice to make the university the beneficiary of these unitrusts."



Mickey Welch with WVU President Gordon Gee

Private scholarships help student to realize her dreams

Before enrolling at WVU, freshman Allison Zalesky became interested in the marketing strategies of the Coca-Cola Company.

As a finance and marketing major in the College of Business and Economics, Zalesky is finding the support and opportunities she needs to make her goals of one day working for the company's financial department a reality.

Zalesky is a private scholarship recipient, member of the Honors College, and co-founder of the new DECA (Distributive Education Clubs of America) organization on campus. DECA, an international association of high school and college students and teachers, focuses on marketing, management and entrepreneurship in business, finance, and hospitality.

She served as the president of DECA at University High School in Morgantown for two years, when she and her partners placed first and second in the state for marketing communications. During this time, she also had the opportunity to compete twice at the international level.

Dr. Michael Walsh, chair and associate professor of marketing in B&E, became familiar with Zalesky's high school involvement with DECA and encouraged Zalesky to start a chapter of the organization at WVU.

"As a freshman, I didn't know anyone. But Dr. Walsh asked me to speak about my DECA experience in front of a crowd of 300 students," Zalesky said of her first few days at WVU.

The opportunity to address her peers marked the beginning of a new project and challenge for Zalesky. Now, a few months later, the team is preparing to send eight students to compete in Washington D.C. at the international level.

"DECA helps students get real-world experience through competition," Zalesky said. "And it gives students an idea of what the workforce is like in business related fields."



WVU freshman Allison Zalesky

Because of this, Zalesky recognizes and is thankful for the hard work of those who went before her in the College of Business and Economics, individuals who have made scholarships available to students like her.

Zalesky is a recipient of the A.K. Robinson Scholarship and the Jose V. Sartarelli Scholarship, awarded to one freshman each year who demonstrates excellent leadership skills and academic achievement.

Aside from the financial aid they provide to students, Zalesky believes scholarships have inherent value. "They are a great networking tool and it's been great to get to know others who have been able to succeed in and help the business school," Zalesky said.

Thanks to the support of professors and generous donors and her passion to succeed, Zalesky has a full undergraduate experience to seize in her upcoming years at WVU.

Alum commits to enhancing diversity

Alumnus Terry L. Sharik is deeply committed to doing his part to enhance diversity in the WVU Davis College of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Design.

The 1964 graduate recently made a gift to establish the Dr. Terry L. Sharik Natural Resources Diversity Endowment. The purpose of this fund is to enhance undergraduate, graduate and faculty diversity in the

Davis College Division of Forestry and Natural Resources in the School of Natural Resources. Funding can be utilized for attracting guest lecturers, funding scholarships for minority students, supporting faculty research, and providing research funding for minority faculty members.



Terry L. Sharik

Investment company endows gift in honor of late faculty mentor

When WVU alumnus Preston Wu Shyon Chen received his honorary doctorate last year, he credited his mentor, the late Chin-Yung Wen, with helping him find the drive to succeed. Wen, who like Chen hailed from Taiwan, served as chair of the Department of Chemical Engineering from 1970-1981.



Preston Wu Shyon Chen

“When I thought that I could not make it here in the United States, it was Professor Wen who ensured that I had the financial scholarship necessary for me to stay in school,” Chen said. “It was him who brought me to West Virginia. And it was him who encouraged me to work hard, stay focused and be better than what I had ever been before.

In honor of that association, an investment company associated with Chen – Hung I Investments Co. Ltd. – has created the Professor Chin-Yung Wen Chemical Engineering Opportunity Fund. Monies from the \$150,000 endowment may be used to support events and activities to memorialize and honor Wen, and may include holding distinguished lectures on cutting-edge chemical engineering research, providing scholarships to deserving undergraduate and graduate students or supporting departmental ambassadors to assist international students acclimate to WVU.

Young Innovator ‘delites’ in her success

WVU sophomore Mary-Kate Barker recently got her first taste of success at the West Virginia Small Farm Conference in Charleston, West Virginia.

Barker, a WVU Davis College Young Innovator Fellow majoring in human nutrition and foods, was given the opportunity to market and sell Mary-Kate’s GranDelite granola, a product she came up with based on her own custom recipes and branding strategy.

Gift from geology alumni helps create student field experience fund

WVU graduates Pamela and Dan Billman recently pledged to establish a permanent endowment in support of student field experiences for geology students in the Eberly College of Arts and Sciences.

This gift will serve as the foundation for the Geology Student Field Experience Campaign, which will allow the department of geology and geography to offer two field trips in the coming year.

“Field experiences are essential for an understanding of Earth’s processes and environments,” said Tim Carr, WVU’s Marshall Miller professor of geology and the Department chair. “The experience and comprehension that can be gained through the study of geology in the field is invaluable for science students. Even with modern technology, from satellites to scanning electron microscopes, there are a number of geological aspects that still require first-hand observation.”



WVU geology students take part in a field experience.



Student Mary-Kate Barker stands behind her GranDelite granola.

As a Davis College Young Innovator, Barker was provided the resources – funding, mentoring and networking opportunities – to carry out her idea from concept to reality from a \$157,000 grant from the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation and \$100,000 from Farm Credit.

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A State of Minds: The Campaign for West Virginia's University | www.astateofminds.com
WVU Foundation, Publisher | Bill Nevin, Editor

Estate plan gifts count

Thinking of including gift support for WVU in your estate plan?

Join the hundreds of Mountaineer faithful who have given over \$100 million in bequest intentions and planned gifts through the Campaign. It's easy!

For those who will be age 70 or older by December 31, 2017 (the end of the Campaign), the bonus is your future support through gift provisions in your will or revocable trust counts toward reaching the Campaign goal. The same is true if you make the WVU Foundation the beneficiary of a retirement account, annuity or life insurance policy.

If you have already made any of these arrangements, or would like more information on planned giving, call 304-284-4000 or info@wvuf.org. Inquiries are confidential.

Alumni Weekend

Friday, June 3, 2016

6 p.m. - Woodburn Circle Society Reception/
Dinner | Waterfront Place Hotel

Saturday, June 4, 2016

11:30 a.m. - Order of Vandalia Induction
Ceremony/Luncheon | Erickson Alumni Center

2 p.m. - Women of WVU Celebration
Art Museum of West Virginia University

6 p.m. - Emeritus Induction Ceremony/Dessert
Reception | Lakeview Resort



Paula Fitzgerald, the Nathan Haddad Professor of Business Administration in the College of Business and Economics, has been named the recipient of the 2015 James and Karen Caveney Alumni Association Faculty Excellence Award. The newly-established award, created by a gift from the Caveneys, is intended for a "highly-productive" faculty member who demonstrates excellence in teaching and research alongside a demonstrated "commitment to the people of West Virginia."