

WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY

# FOUNDATION

NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2021



WE ARE  STRONGER  
**TOGETHER**

## DONORS BOOST SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS

AS OF LATE DECEMBER, 254 STUDENTS AFFECTED BY THE PANDEMIC HAD BEEN AWARDED NEARLY \$281K IN SCHOLARSHIPS.

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## NEWSLETTER

Winter 2021

**WVU Foundation**

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# JOHN CHAMBERS EMPOWERS UNDERREPRESENTED STUDENTS TO BECOME ENTREPRENEURS

The visionary namesake behind the John Chambers College of Business and Economics is empowering underrepresented students to transform West Virginia's economy through entrepreneurship and innovation via a new Chambers Fellows program.

WVU alumnus John Chambers, former Executive Chairman and CEO of Cisco Systems and current founder and CEO of JC2 Ventures, contributed \$1 million through the Chambers Family Foundation to establish the program. It's the latest in a series of philanthropic leadership endeavors designed to move WVU and West Virginia forward by fostering entrepreneurship, start-ups and inclusive job creation.

"In today's world, you either disrupt or you get disrupted," Chambers said. "The concerted effort across the public, private and academic sectors in West Virginia are driving the state's transformation through inclusive job creation, training opportunities and a stronger innovation ecosystem. I'm excited to partner with leaders at WVU, like President Gordon Gee and Chambers College Dean Javier Reyes, to contribute resources that will help my home state become a start-up state and model for the rest of our country and the world."

Beginning in fall 2021, up to four students majoring in entrepreneurship, management information systems or computer engineering (with a minor in entrepreneurship) will be selected each academic year as Chambers Fellows. Preference will be given to students from underrepresented groups to increase diversity among the student body.

All honorees will receive a scholarship – up to \$10,000 for in-state students and up to \$17,500 for out-of-state students – for the cost of attendance. Funds will also be available to support and offset student costs associated with academic enrichment opportunities, such as study abroad, internships and more.

# WVU Foundation initiative provides nearly \$281K to students in need

The generosity of Mountaineer Nation is empowering West Virginia University students affected by the COVID-19 pandemic to proceed with their education.

Prior to the start of the spring semester, 254 WVU students had been awarded \$280,863 in scholarships for the 2020-'21 school year via "We Are Stronger Together," a special fundraising initiative launched by the WVU Foundation. Contributions to the ongoing effort assist WVU students affected by the pandemic with tuition, room and board, and other educational expenses.

Since the start of the school year, the number of students who have benefited from the initiative has more than tripled as scholarship gifts increased.

Kara DiNardo, a freshman pre-pharmacy major, said scholarship support helped her continue her studies after her father's employer reduced hours and laid off workers due to the pandemic. "To the people who donated, thank you so much," DiNardo said. "It means a lot, especially during these unprecedented times. To those considering donating, know that your donation wouldn't go unnoticed and would be appreciated by many other kids like me."

Charleston-area businessman and WVU Foundation board member Robert O. "Bob" Orders is among the "We Are Stronger Together" contributors.

"When I first heard about the 'We Are Stronger Together' scholarship initiative, I questioned the timing given this pandemic and associated economic decline," Orders said. "But, after further consideration, my wife, Ann, and I decided that, for those of us with the means, this is exactly the right time to give to this important WVU scholarship program. We must support those students who have found themselves in critical need of the funds to continue their higher education."

Donations to the "We Are Stronger Together" scholarship initiative can be made by contacting Jena Prokopchuk, WVU Foundation executive director of leadership annual giving, at 304-282-5929 or [jprokopchuk@wvuf.org](mailto:jprokopchuk@wvuf.org), or online at [give.wvu.edu/c19](http://give.wvu.edu/c19).



## Adopt a Scholar

Fully support a non-resident Mountaineer in need for 4 years	<b>\$150,000</b>
Fully support an in-state Mountaineer in need for 4 years	<b>\$90,000</b>

## Support a Student

Provide housing and meals to a student for 4 years	<b>\$45,000</b>
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## Build a Future

Cover 4 years of in-state tuition and fees	<b>\$40,000</b>
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## Give Hope

Provide non-resident tuition, fees, room and board for a year	<b>\$35,000</b>
Provide in-state tuition, fees, room and board for a year	<b>\$20,000</b>

## Share Knowledge

Provide a year's in-state tuition, fees, and books	<b>\$10,000</b>
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## Provide Shelter

Cover lodging for a year	<b>\$6,000</b>
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## Make it Possible

Cover a meal plan and books for a semester	<b>\$3,000</b>
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## Get Them There

Cover one year of transportation and other incidentals	<b>\$1,000</b>
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## Share the Word

Provide books and supplies for a semester	<b>\$500</b>
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# Fitzsimmons Law Firm establishes litigation and advocacy center at College of Law

The newly established Fitzsimmons Center for Litigation and Advocacy at the College of Law will provide additional opportunities for students to enhance essential lawyering skills - including understanding and analyzing the applicable substantive and procedural law while translating that knowledge into effective written and oral advocacy during the litigation process.

The Fitzsimmons Law Firm announced the Fitzsimmons Foundation pledged a gift of \$1.25 million to establish the Center, which will have the goal to train law students to become effective legal advocates by enhancing and expanding the litigation and advocacy curriculum at the College. “We greatly appreciate this extremely generous gift, and we are excited about the opportunities it will create for our students,” said John Taylor, interim dean of the College of Law. “This gift will enable us to broaden and deepen our curriculum in litigation and advocacy skills so that our students will leave here with the best career preparation possible.”

President Gordon Gee praised the gift: “To educate our future leaders and fulfill our mission to serve the public good, West Virginia University depends on partners like the Fitzsimmons family,” Gee said. “Their vision and the generosity of their gift to the College of Law will help improve our justice system and make our communities - and the world - a better place.”

“Litigation and advocacy are key skills in the practice of law and with the creation of the Fitzsimmons Center for Litigation and Advocacy, generations of aspiring trial lawyers and litigators will now be able to receive more top level education and training in those areas here at WVU,” said Clayton Fitzsimmons, one of the owners and managing members of the Fitzsimmons Law Firm.



**Attorneys (left to right) Rocky Fitzsimmons, Bob Fitzsimmons and Clayton Fitzsimmons have established a litigation and advocacy center at the College of Law.**

“We are also confident that the Center will further WVU’s College of Law’s standing as a national leader in legal education and serve to promote the practice of law in West Virginia and beyond,” added Rocky Fitzsimmons, also an owner and managing member of the firm.

Jessica Haught, teaching professor and interim associate dean for administration, will serve as director of the Fitzsimmons Center for Litigation and Advocacy. She will work with her colleagues to develop courses and assist adjunct faculty with transferring their professional training and experiences to the classroom. A new Legal Advocacy Fellow will assist in curriculum development and course delivery.

“This Center will directly benefit our students by providing them with even more opportunities to be effective advocates for their clients and to practice the essential skills of lawyers,” she said. “I look forward to working with my colleagues at the College of Law to develop additional classes as well as engaging with members of the bench and bar to draw upon their expertise to offer specialized courses to advance our students’ litigation and advocacy training.”

As part of the gift, the College of Law’s event hall is being named the Fitzsimmons Hall.

## \$25M Smith gift supports remote worker program, outdoor economic development

Supported by a transformational \$25 million gift from Brad and Alys Smith, West Virginia University is launching an innovative remote worker program – centered on outdoor recreation and the changing landscape of U.S. employment – to help individuals and young families prosper in the Mountain State.

The Smiths' generosity will expand efforts by the newly named Brad and Alys Smith Outdoor Economic Development Collaborative to ignite West Virginia's economy, develop world-class recreational infrastructure and grow outdoor educational opportunities.

Amid technological advances and workplace trends accelerated by the COVID-19 pandemic, an increasing number of professionals have the freedom to work from anywhere. The remote worker recruitment initiative is designed to help West Virginia grow by attracting fully employed individuals with a shared sense of purpose, an appreciation for the Mountain State's outdoor assets and a desire to make a positive impact.

Competitive applications will be accepted early this year. Benefits available to program participants will

include financial incentives, free co-working space, free and subsidized outdoor trips and activities, professional development, networking events and more.

A West Virginia native and Marshall University graduate, Brad Smith led software giant Intuit for 11 years as president and CEO now serves as executive board chairman. He and Alys, an attorney, live in California, where they work to promote education, entrepreneurship and equality through philanthropy. They were eager to invest in WVU's work to leverage the state's outdoor assets to enhance economic development in West Virginia.



**Alys and Brad Smith**

## Dedicated alumni couple creates engineering scholarship

Understanding the financial challenges ahead of students today, Keith Harvey, president and CEO of Kaiser Aluminum, and his wife, Cindy Harvey, have created a scholarship for WVU students interested in pursuing a career in engineering.

A native of Beckley, West Virginia, Keith Harvey is a graduate of the Benjamin M. Statler College of Engineering and Mineral Resources, and Cindy Harvey graduated with a bachelor's degree in social work.

"I have always wanted to give back to WVU for the great learning and fun we experienced there," Keith Harvey said. "It is important to us to offer financial assistance to worthy individuals who would otherwise struggle to afford a degree, much as my wife and I were challenged when we attended the University."

"My husband nor myself came from wealth and had to take out student loans to attend college," Cindy Harvey said. "We are hoping to ease the burden for students to reach their full potential."

The Harveys are grateful for the memories and relationships they made during their time studying in Morgantown and hope their gift will help future students create similar memories.



A \$4.8 million trust gift from longtime University supporter David G. Allen is benefitting five programs across campus that reflect his diverse interests in education, health, athletics and more.

## \$4.8M trust gift bolsters education, health and athletics

A \$4.8 million trust gift from longtime supporter David G. Allen benefits five programs across campus that reflect his diverse interests in education, health, athletics and more.

Allen, of Clarksburg, West Virginia, died Sept. 21, 2017, at the age of 67. A Virginia Military Institute graduate with a bachelor's degree in economics, he studied accounting at WVU and cultivated lasting friendships with many University leaders.

Prior to his passing, he established a living trust that provided about \$960,000 each to the following programs and units:

- David G. Allen English Literature Endowment, Eberly College of Arts and Sciences. The namesake fund provides discretionary funds to support the English department with preference given to pre-20th century English literature.
- Dorothy Davis Endowment for the West Virginia & Regional History Center, WVU Libraries. The fund supports acquisition and collection maintenance activities focused on state

and local history, with an emphasis on the early settlement period in north-central West Virginia and Harrison County. Allen previously established the fund to honor Davis, a late teacher, historian and friend.

- Sara C. and James F. Allen Comprehensive Lung Cancer Program, WVU Cancer Institute. Allen's brother created the fund in memory of their parents, who both died of lung cancer.
- Division of Exercise Physiology, School of Medicine. Allen's gift gives preference to the aquatic therapy curriculum. He collaborated with the School for a video about the benefits of aquatic therapy for spinal cord injuries after a 1994 vehicle accident left him paralyzed.
- Mountaineer Athletic Club. Allen worked with therapy providers involved with women's rowing during his recovery. His gift will go toward a new athletics performance center for WVU's Olympic sports programs, including rowing.

"It is because of the generosity and support from our extended University family that this institution can continue to achieve great success," WVU President Gordon Gee said. "These gifts from David Allen will be instrumental in expanding our commitment to arts and STEM education, health outreach and research, as well as creating opportunities for our campus community and Mountaineer fans around the globe."

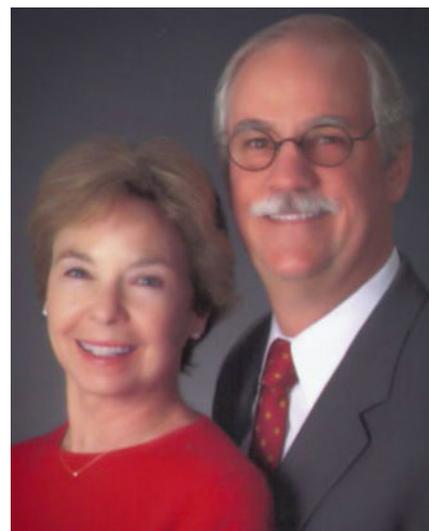
# Endowed chair established to support pediatrics at School of Medicine

Students, patients and their families will benefit from a School of Medicine endowment that provides financial support to enhance research, teaching and service activities within the growing Department of Pediatrics. Larry Pickering, M.D., FAAP, and his wife, Margaret, recently completed their longtime pledge to establish an endowed chair position. Charles J. Mullett, M.D., Ph.D., who has led the pediatrics department since 2018, is the inaugural Margaret T. and Larry K. Pickering Chair in Pediatrics.

“It’s an honor to be the first Pickering Chair,” Mullett said. “I’m grateful to Dr. and Mrs. Pickering for their commitment and dedication to WVU, and I’m excited to expand our efforts to train the next generation of pediatric specialists, develop cutting-edge therapies of the future and provide excellent medical care to West Virginia’s children thanks to their generous support.”

Mullett is a pediatric critical care specialist who grew up in Morgantown and earned his medical degree from WVU. He has overseen rapid growth within the Department of Pediatrics in preparation for the new WVU Medicine

Children’s Hospital, which will provide comprehensive healthcare services for West Virginia children and families within one dedicated state-of-the-art facility. Slated for completion in 2021, the 150-bed, nine-story hospital is under construction next to WVU Medicine’s J.W. Ruby Memorial Hospital in Morgantown.



Margaret and Larry Pickering

Born in Pittsburgh and raised in Wheeling, W.Va., Dr. Pickering is renowned researcher, author and lecturer who specializes in pediatric infectious diseases. He earned his medical degree at WVU, where his mentor – Dr. Gwendolyn Hogan – nurtured his interest in research and inspired him to pursue a career in academic medicine.

“This is a way to say ‘thank you’ to a great medical school and to the people who helped me along the way,” Pickering said. “I was so fortunate to be exposed to high-quality people when I was at WVU and to have acquired an outstanding education that has been the basis for what I’ve accomplished since then.”

## Irvin Stewart Society New Members

The Irvin Stewart Society honors those who have included gift provisions in their wills, created income-producing gifts, provided for testamentary donations of retirement assets, donated life insurance, and transferred their real estate remainder interest to benefit WVU and its affiliated organizations.

Robert A. Arnott, PhD '63, Greenwood Village, CO  
David F. Cline '86, '90, Frederick, MD  
Anne Conley-Pitchell, JD '77, Seaside Park, NJ  
Linda Beth Anderson DeHaemers '72, Centreville, VA  
Sidney R. DeVaul, Spartanburg, SC  
Gregory A. Elmes, PhD, Morgantown, WV  
Jeanne M. Elmes '99, Morgantown, WV  
Stephen D. Fabick, EdD '76, Birmingham, MI  
Diann Moore Hayes '72, Lewisburg, WV  
Kathryn Hunt, Ashville, NC  
William Hunt '62, Ashville, NC  
Joyce A. Ice, PhD '73, '77, Santa Fe, NM  
Beverly J. Keller '86, Mesa, AZ  
William J. Keller '85, Mesa, AZ

Colin K. Kelly, JD '01, Atlanta, GA  
Ronald E. Latimer, Santa Fe, NM  
Bonnie Miltenberger, Morgantown, WV  
James E. Miltenberger, PhD, Morgantown, WV  
Chaz H. Nancarrow '76, Parkersburg, WV  
Mark Pitchell, Seaside Park, NJ  
Joan E. Priory, Bonita Springs, FL  
Richard B. Priory, Bonita Springs, FL  
Barbara Burkett Smith '79, Mooresville, NC  
Carlene S. Smith '80, Lisle, IL  
David A. Smith '80, Lisle, IL  
David C. Smith '79, Mooresville, NC  
John A. Steele '68, Saint Louis, MO



A listing of all members can be found at [www.wvuf.org](http://www.wvuf.org), select Donor Recognition and Irvin Stewart Society.



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### 2019-2020 Donor Impact Report

Generous donors like you stepped up to make fiscal year 2019-'20 our best ever. In lieu of our traditional annual report, we created our first all-digital Donor Impact Report. We invite you to view and explore the online report at [www.wvuf.org/2019-2020-donor-impact-report](https://www.wvuf.org/2019-2020-donor-impact-report), which features videos, graphics, stories and more to highlight the impressive impact of your contributions to WVU.