

Campaign Tops Historic \$1 Billion Goal

by Bill Nevin



State of Minds Campaign Co-Chairmen Bob Reynolds (left) and Verl Purdy (right) with scholarship recipients Cristin Dolan and Dillon Muhly-Alexander.

WVU has achieved a historic milestone in its private fundraising efforts, surpassing the \$1 billion goal in its “State of Minds” Campaign more than a year before the deadline.

Alumni and friends of WVU contributed \$1.010 billion to the Campaign through September 30, putting WVU on a list with only 36 other four-year public universities across the country that have successfully raised more than \$1 billion.

“I believe our world’s best days lie ahead. West Virginia’s best days lie ahead,” President E. Gordon Gee said. “And by supporting the ‘State of Minds’ Campaign, our donors are summoning that bright future, one dollar and one life at a time.”

A special \$50 million “Dream First” scholarship initiative launched in 2015 as part of the campaign had exceeded its goal at \$50.9 million.

Campaign donations thus far have established 704 student scholarships, 52 chairs and professorships, and 213 funds to assist research efforts.

Both University and Foundation officials made it clear that while the \$1 billion goal has been reached, the campaign is not over and will continue through its announced end date of December 31, 2017.

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MOUNTAINEER PARENTS CLUB



Dear Mountaineer families,

Happy new year! I trust that you all had a wonderful winter break with your student. We are so happy that your children are back!

A new year often means New Year's resolutions, right? I'm sure that you set some yourself, and we have here at the Mountaineer Parents Club as well.

Local clubs – We know the importance of families meeting and networking within your communities. We have seen firsthand how students benefit from these connections, so we want to re-energize our existing clubs both in and out-of-state. In addition, we want to add clubs in areas that currently don't have any. Please consider volunteering your time to connect WVU families and students. Parents who currently serve say that it is a rewarding experience to meet and network with fellow WVU families. We will help you every step of the way!

Communication – Our students are more successful when parents are connected to the University. It is important for you to know the resources available to your students so you can point them in the right direction. We asked parents last winter to participate in a communications survey. We received lots of feedback, and we listened! Check out our new website at parentsclub.wvu.edu. Let us know what you think.

In addition to our new website, you will notice changes in our newsletter, social media and all of the ways we keep you informed and connected to your student and to West Virginia University.

Recruitment – Our WVU families and students are our best recruiters! Do you know a future Mountaineer? Tell us about them. Send me an email and Admissions will reach out to them.

And last, I have taken the challenge as well and am starting a new tradition: writing 52 thank you notes, one a week to a different person for one year. I am randomly selecting parents from our database and sending a handwritten "thank you" for sending your student to WVU.

Thanks for all that you do for WVU and our students.

Let's Go!



Sabrina M. Cave, Assistant Vice President

Calendar of Events

March 3
Residence Halls Close at 7:00 p.m.

March 6-10
Spring Break

March 12
Residence Halls Reopen at Noon

April 14
Friday Before Easter Recess

May 1-5
Final Exams

May 12-14
Commencement

***For more information on Residence Hall Closings, please visit the Housing website at housing.wvu.edu.**

The Mountaineer Parents Club newsletter is a joint effort of WVU Foundation, Enrollment Services, University Relations and Mountaineer Parents Club. Funding for this newsletter is provided in part by the Susan B. Hardesty Parents Club Endowment. Letters and suggestions are welcome. Send mail to: **Editor, Mountaineer Parents Club newsletter**, PO Box 6240, Morgantown, WV 26506 or parentsclub@mail.wvu.edu.

WVU is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Institution – Minority/Female/Disability/Veteran. (325906)

Students Can Get Ahead All Summer



Let's agree — signing up for summer courses is one of the smartest things an undergraduate can do to stay on track for graduation.

Taking summer classes gives students a way to earn their degrees faster, catch up on the credits they need to graduate, focus on difficult courses when there are fewer distractions or add that minor they've been thinking about. And with smaller student-to-teacher ratios plus a wealth of opportunities to see the world while studying abroad over the summer (or longer), students can dive deep into their passions, connect with faculty mentors and embark on life-changing experiences.

Sold yet? Consider talking to your student about all the opportunities to expand their horizons this summer. Registration for summer 2017 semesters is now open, so by planning ahead your student will get the courses they need. You'll find all the information you need at summer.wvu.edu.

Online courses are another great way to take classes — and not just in summer. Students can take online courses all year while they are on or off campus. Have your student check out online.wvu.edu to learn more.

Have your student visit with their adviser to ensure they're planning their schedule in the best way possible. Then they can access STAR through the portal (portal.wvu.edu) to get registered.

If they need help registering, they can visit registrar.wvu.edu for instructions or call **304-442-3151**. 🇵🇸

Campaign *(Continued from page 1)*

Gee said the focus of the campaign for the remaining period will be on the University's strategic pillars of education, healthcare and prosperity.

"While we celebrate the success through September 30, there is much work yet to do," he said. "Our University — and the state of West Virginia — must continue to transform. We must work together as one to provide the best education, healthcare and economic opportunities for all."

Campaign co-chair Bob Reynolds, a 1974 graduate, said, "Now, more than ever with the financial challenges facing the University, our focus as a foundation needs to be on our mission to support the University through private philanthropy. Our loyal and generous alumni and friends have never let us down, and I am confident that they will continue to give, and we'll finish this campaign stronger than ever."

Visit astateofminds.com for information on how you can help support the campaign. 🇵🇸

Improving Health One Person at a Time

Aspiring pharmacists at the WVU School of Pharmacy visited West Preston Middle School in Masontown, West Virginia, in late October 2016 to discuss a rising epidemic in rural America — substance and prescription drug abuse.

This visit was part of the School of Pharmacy's partnership with the Duquesne University School of Pharmacy and is a component of the school's Introductory Pharmacy Practice Experience course.

The program is presented by second-year pharmacy students and focuses on the effects of prescription and illicit drugs on the brain and the short- and long-term consequences of drug misuse and abuse. Presentations for younger students use a video game theme to give students something they can relate to.

"When students are confronted with a situation that involves abusing drugs or alcohol, then they are now able to make an informed decision, and hopefully it is not to participate," Catalina Saenz, a second-year pharmacy student, told the Daily Athenaeum. 🇵🇸

Rebuilding Lives

On June 23, 2016, torrential rains devastated many communities in West Virginia, claiming 23 lives and causing extensive damage to homes and property. But the generosity of hundreds of West Virginia University alumni and friends is having a major impact.

Just hours after the news came, the Center for Service and Learning and WVU Student Government Association, as well as other student leaders, came together to organize a massive collection that sent tractor-trailer loads of supplies to affected communities and helped coordinate and support groups who wanted to help.

From June 24 to July 6, more than 350 volunteers served an estimated 3,000 hours. The WVU Health Sciences Center and WVU Health Sciences Center Charleston also mobilized immediately, providing medical teams to clinics. And WVU's chapters of the American Society of Civil Engineers and Engineers Without Borders traveled to Bomont to help repair damaged homes.

The Land Use and Sustainable Development Law Clinic at the WVU College of Law began working with flood-devastated communities pro bono to review and implement communities' plans for redevelopment. And athletes, from the football team to women's basketball, volunteered and collected donations.

But that's not all the WVU community has been doing.

Donations to the WVU Foundation from more than 1,600 Mountaineers across the country and a matched gift of \$500,000 from Princeton native and WVU alumnus Ken Kendrick brought in more than \$1 million.

These funds, administered by the WVU Extension Service and WVU Financial Aid, are helping dozens of residents, students and communities.

People like Robin Brown, of Richwood, W.Va., who lost her entire home, have started to rebuild their lives. Donor contributions through the WVU Foundation will be providing Brown with a new roof, appliances and furniture for her home.

"I was completely overwhelmed," Brown said. "People we have never met, who do not know our names, who have never been to Richwood, have given so, so much."

Not far from Brown, the Richwood Public Library was facing a dire future. With flood-damaged floors and expensive labor costs to install new, library director Robin Bartlett knew getting back on their feet would be a struggle.

But thanks to a Foundation grant, the flooring installation and repairs are under way.

"When the WVU Foundation called me, I cried," Bartlett said. "It was the answer to my prayer."


In Greenbrier County, one resident lost his heating system in the flooding, and with winter on the horizon, knew that would be his top priority.

But when he was denied a FEMA assistance and a Small Business Administration (SBA) loan, he wasn't sure where to turn — until WVU Extension contacted him regarding the availability of a WVU Foundation flood assistance grant.

"I wasn't expecting anything like what the WVU Foundation gave me," he said. "They approved the grant ... and they are working with Lowe's so I can purchase items there. I am really grateful for the group I have been working with at the Foundation."

In addition to the funding being administered by WVU Extension, donations to the Gray Student Emergency Fund have helped several dozen WVU students affected by the flood with tuition, fees and books.

"We were amazed at the generosity of Mountaineer nation when we began collecting donations right after the disaster. Now to see this generosity being put to good use to help flood victims is truly heartwarming," said Greg McCracken, who headed up the flood relief efforts for the WVU Foundation. "We are just happy to be a part of helping others as this long rebuilding process continues for many in southern West Virginia."

Efforts are ongoing. To learn more or donate, visit service.wvu.edu/dollarsfordisaster. 



What is CLASS?

CLASS is an acronym for the Center for Learning, Advising and Student Success. Some first-time freshmen begin their college journey without declaring a major. Some identify more than one major, but wish to take a semester to figure out which one is most ideal! Others are interested in professional programs that do not accept until their junior year. And yet others have a specific major in mind, but initially do not meet requirements for direct admission to the college or school. CLASS works with approximately 3,000 freshmen, sophomores and some juniors in defining a pathway to one of WVU's 14 colleges and schools. We provide many of the same services that the colleges and schools provide, but to a general population of students.

Regardless of whether your student is enrolled in CLASS or one of WVU's colleges or schools, ask them if they utilize these resources. If not, encourage them to reach out to their academic adviser. Their adviser can refer them to the abundant resources and services available to help them be successful at WVU! 🍀

Our staff of professional academic advisers, success coaches and tutors work with students individually to assist them in:

ACADEMIC AND CAREER EXPLORATION:

Every student is required to meet with their assigned academic adviser to discuss prior academic history, current schedule and a pathway to their desired major.

STUDENT SUCCESS COACHING: Any undergraduate student at WVU can benefit from student success coaching. Students meet one-on-one with a success coach who assists them in strengthening academic skills (i.e., study skills, note-taking, test-taking, time management, etc.).

ACADEMIC TUTORING: WVU provides free tutoring to all undergraduate students for a variety of subjects. Tutoring is offered in group and individual settings, and is available any day of the week.

Pride Travel Fund 2016

A record \$172,842 was donated this fall to help the West Virginia University Marching Band travel to the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York City and other performances around the state and region.

This year, the band had the extraordinary opportunity to lead the 2016 Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, performing in front of millions of people live and on national television. As one of ten marching bands and the only featured collegiate band, the "Pride of West Virginia" paved the Manhattan parade route for floats, balloons, and celebrity performers.

The Pride Travel Fund is also used to assist the band travel to performances at away football games as well as parades and exhibition performances around the state and region. This past season the band performed at the West Virginia State Fair in Fairlea, the WVU-BYU football game at FedEx Field in Maryland, and the Forest Festival in Elkins among other events.

For more on the campaign, visit: astateofminds.com. 🍀



A Concentration in Adventure



West Virginia University is synonymous with the pioneering, adventurous spirit. Here, students get more than a four-walled classroom experience. They are free — and encouraged — to explore the wider world.

One of the best ways for your student to add some adventure to their curriculum is through our adventure-oriented clubs. From the Climbing Club, where rock climbing teaches discipline and courage, to the Grotto Club, where students can feed their desire to go further and explore deeper than ever before. For a full list, visit adventurechallenge.wvu.edu/wvu-adventure-recreation-clubs.

Students can also take guided trips organized by the Outdoor Recreation Center, rent all the gear they might need (from tents to snowboards) for low fees and learn essential outdoor adventure skills like rock climbing (on the indoor climbing wall) or how to roll a kayak.

Those who want to live and breathe the adventure lifestyle can train to become an adventure guide and help head up their own trips — a great résumé booster and way to strengthen their leadership skills. Find out more at adventurechallenge.wvu.edu. ❤️

Did You Know?



Giving Back

West Virginia University's efforts to promote service have resulted in 251,290 documented service hours and more than \$5 million invested into communities throughout the state, according to Galaxy Digital, a leadership network for nonprofits, foundations and corporations.

College Cup Final

The No. 1-ranked West Virginia University women's soccer team advanced to the 2016 NCAA Women's College Cup Final for the first time in team history, winning a program-record 23 games in the process, tied for the most in Big 12 Conference history. The Mountaineers ended the season as the national runner-up.

Break Buses

Is your student looking for a ride home for Spring Break? Try the Parents Club University Break Buses. Buses are confirmed to go to Allentown, PA; Carlisle, PA; Hagerstown, MD; Secaucus, NJ; Philadelphia, PA, and new this year Highland, NY, to service the Connecticut, New York and New England areas.

The Long Island, NY, Southern/Central NJ, Northern VA and Central Maryland local Mountaineer Parents Club chapters also offer buses to their areas. For information visit parentsclub.wvu.edu/schedules.

150th Anniversary

Did you know that February 7, 2017, marks the 150th birthday of WVU? The University will be celebrating this milestone throughout 2017, with events and looking ahead to the next 150 years.

College Radio Station of the Year

WVU-FM, known to students as U92, was named the four-year college radio station of the year by the College Media Association. It beat out college radio stations across the country, including stations from schools like DePaul University and Vanderbilt University, the second and third place winners, respectively.

Coliseum Renovations

We're putting the finishing touches on the first phase of a \$23 million renovation of the iconic WVU Coliseum. Look forward to more bathrooms, new concession options, a wider concourse and improved graphics.

WVUGO!

Interested in fitness or looking to get back into your workout routine this coming semester? Try the WVUGo app from Campus Recreation and Adventure WV.

The app will feature: room and field reservations, registration for fitness classes and trips, a calendar of all programs and events, class and building announcements, ability to "favorite" classes and push notifications for classes.

