

2023-24 Annual Impact Report



WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY
FOUNDATION
— Student Success Is Our Mission —





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We're Writing the Future, Together

Dear Donors,

Here at the West Chester University Foundation, we are looking to the future with confidence that is validated by what we have already achieved together.

In this time of transition and growth, we have begun a new fiscal year from a position of strength, closing out 150Forward: The Campaign for West Chester University by raising more than \$70.6 million — exceeding our goal by more than \$5.6 million.

Now, in the midst of our 2024–25 academic year, we have even more to look forward to. The collective support of you — our proud alumni, generous community members, and loudest champions — has positioned our institution for even greater success in the year ahead, reaffirming our commitment to crucial scholarships, student aid, and bolstering our shared West Chester pride through key investments in the academic experience, athletics, and facilities that sets our University apart.

As we look back on the 2023–24 fiscal year, we mark another historic first — the single largest fundraising campaign in the history of the Foundation. In the pages that follow, you'll read stories of impact and action, ones that we hope will inspire great feelings of pride in what your support continues to make possible.

The Foundation and the University share a commitment to build on the momentum established, and to ensure that WCU's bright minds continue to shape the world. We couldn't be more thrilled to begin this new year together to strengthen this vibrant community of leadership, discovery, and growth for all students.

At this exciting moment in time, our potential and promise is boundless, and waiting to be explored. Now is our chance to write the future, together.

Thank you for your partnership.

Yours,



R. Lorraine Bernotsky, DPhil
President, West Chester University



Deb Cornelius '91, CFRE
Executive Director, WCU Foundation

Your Impact

By The Numbers

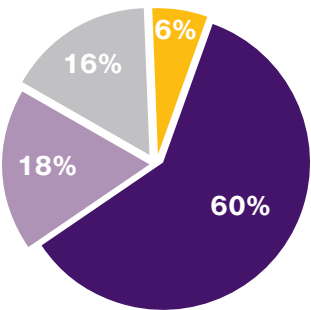
Discover the difference you and the West Chester University Foundation made in the 2023-24 fiscal year.

\$15,783,787

total outright gifts & future commitments

\$13,604,869 outright gifts

FRIENDS & COMMUNITY MEMBERS	\$8,162,936
ALUMNI	\$2,396,213
CORPORATIONS & ORGANIZATIONS	\$2,165,748
FOUNDATIONS	\$ 879,972



\$1,295,656

planned gifts

5,952

donors

\$883,262

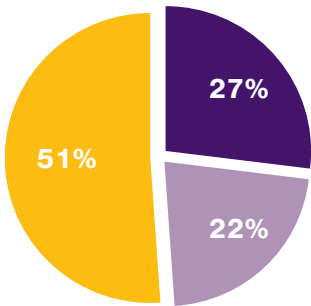
commitments

12,102

gifts

Allocation of Gifts

CAPITAL PROJECTS	\$7,003,495
CURRENT USE	\$3,671,717
ENDOWMENT	\$2,929,657



By the Numbers

150Forward: The Campaign for WCU

July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2024

\$70,630,380

outright gifts & future commitments



67,608

gifts

20,351

donors

1,024

funds supported

125

new scholarships created

105

new endowments established

3,340

students received scholarships

1,065

first-generation students received scholarships

24

NCAA Division II athletic programs supported

175,000 sq ft

Sciences & Engineering Center & The Commons constructed

Investing In Our Students

to inspire lasting, attainable excellence

Broadening access through scholarships and bringing in the nation's brightest

\$28,564,866

Leading with Technology

to connect students & advance research

A leap forward for the health sciences and advancing the way we share knowledge

\$12,700,704

Creating Opportunity

to realize the potential of every student

Embracing a broad set of needs to enrich the experience of all students

\$29,364,810

West Chester University offers countless pathways to success for passionate students — with your support, the University has enhanced its efforts to ensure student success.



Stay Golden

Once a Golden Ram, always a Golden Ram. How one alumnus has reconnected with the place it all began.

Today, you'll find Anthony "Tony" Fragale '77 in Richmond, Virginia, more than 200 miles from his alma mater. But, despite distance and time — more than 45 years since graduation — he feels as connected as ever.

Tony is currently in his fifth year on West Chester University's Alumni Association Board of Directors, a role he found in retirement as a way to reconnect with the University that jump started a long, rewarding career in recreation. A former student-athlete who graduated with a bachelor's degree in health and physical education, Tony began his 40-year career with the YMCA in Hatboro, Pennsylvania, less than an hour from West Chester's campus.

"With everything the University embarks on, it succeeds," he shares proudly. "Who wouldn't want to be part of that?"

As an undergraduate, Tony was a member of the men's soccer team from 1973-1975, joining the marching band in his senior year as part of the drumline. Looking back, Tony recognizes that these communities provided him with a group of ready-made peers and helped create lasting memories he cherishes to this day.

Now, Tony is paying that experience forward through his philanthropy in the hopes of strengthening and preserving the experiences that were so formative in his four years at West Chester.

"I feel like I signed onto a winner when I became a student at West Chester. Over the last four decades, the University's impact has only grown because they keep students at the center of every decision they make," he says, praising the wealth of opportunities and fields of study that didn't exist in his undergraduate years.

"I challenge anyone to think back to the experience they had and the benefits they received because of their education," Tony says.

"That should be all it takes for someone to decide, 'I'd like to help some other kids do well, just like I did.'"

Reconnect with your alma mater. Visit
WCUAlumni.org/Volunteer



March On: An Historic, Incomparable Moment for WCU'S RamBand

At the Tournament of Roses, Golden Ram pride took center stage, thanks to the generous support of West Chester University alumni, parents, and friends.

When Eric Rodgers '25 (pictured left) and Gracie Tennant '25 (pictured right) started the seven-mile parade through Pasadena, California on January 1, 2024 as part of West Chester University's INCOMPARABLE Golden Rams Marching Band, their talents weren't just on display for the 700,000 people in attendance — they were being seen by more than 25 million people around the world.

"When I heard we were going to be part of the Rose Parade, I couldn't believe it," Eric says. "To have the opportunity to represent Philadelphia and West Chester on one of the biggest stages in the world — that's an experience I'll never forget."

While Eric, Gracie, and their bandmates had the will to bring this vision to life, it was the support of WCU donors that made this dream a reality. To fund travel expenses for the band's 336 members, the University launched "RamBand Road to the Roses '24," a collective effort which raised \$1 million to transport the band, their instruments, and more than 30 University faculty and staff members to Pasadena for this once-in-a-lifetime experience.

Launched in November 2022, the fundraising initiative was anchored by a \$100,000 matching gift challenge from Dr. James Wells '54 and Mr. Richard G. Wells '58, who are both alumni and the namesakes for West Chester's School of Music. In total, more than 1,400 donors contributed to the effort, including students, who rallied the support of friends and family through crowdfunding to "fund a mile" of their trip. This collective effort was further proof that the band's students, who represent more than 60 majors, are a constant source of pride for the University.

"Having this opportunity to perform at the Rose Parade meant so much to us, but it really brought our community together," says Eric. "We're a DII school from Pennsylvania, and to suddenly be part of one of the most televised events in the world, that's something to be proud of."

"It was really inspiring to see the way the West Chester University alumni and friends came together to support us," says Gracie. "It shows how much of a community we create through RamBand, showing up to cheer on our campus community."

"Their support proved that the feeling is mutual," she adds. "We're their biggest supporters, and they're ours."

Visit WCUFoundation.org to learn how you can help build a better WCU.

BY THE NUMBERS:

336
students (and 336 instruments!)

34
faculty and staff members

400+
suitcases

7
airplanes

20,000+
live florals and greens on parade elements

700
volunteer hours to cover the banner and platforms with dried goods

369
unique equipment items in the field show



Hoop Dreams

How West Chester University's basketball legacy is inspiring a culture of philanthropy.



A former three-sport athlete with a devoted passion for basketball, Jane's professional sports career would take her to Belgium, the U.S. women's basketball Olympic trials, and inspire an accomplished coaching career with stints at the University of Maryland and Mercer University.

"My time at WCU, those were some of my happiest years," Jane recalls. "Hollinger was where we played all of our pick-up games, and to us, they might as well have been world championships."

Jane, who transferred to the University specifically for its reputation as a destination for women's athletics, understands how crucial scholarships can be for student-athletes.

"I wanted to challenge myself to play with and against the best," Jane says. "But there were no scholarships for female athletes at that time, and that made things a lot harder."

Now, Jane is just one of many committed to changing the tide for future Golden Rams through her leadership support of Kane DeLaney Court in Hollinger Field House, a fundraising initiative that honors former West Chester University women's basketball coach, Deirdre Kane, and men's basketball coach, Dick DeLaney '69. Proceeds will equally support scholarship funding for both the men's and women's basketball teams.

For every West Chester University alumnus, there is a place that brings nostalgia for their formative years as a student. For Jane Fontaine '74 (pictured above), it's Hollinger Field House.

See for yourself how much your gift can accomplish. Get started at WCUFoundation.org/Direct-Your-Gift



"The recognition of these coaches has generated incredible support for the basketball teams in the form of scholarships," says Norman Mawby, a longtime WCU supporter with a special connection to this initiative. Norman counts Coach DeLaney as one of his closest friends, while his wife, Marietta, and Deirdre share a common bond as cousins.

"With a growing University and more fiercely competitive athletic programs, this is the kind of resource WCU needs to retain and recruit basketball talent," he adds.

Together, Marietta and Norman (pictured above) are honoring these lifelong friendships as leadership donors to Kane DeLaney Court through their Believe, Play & Have Fun Foundation.

"We're pleased by the length of time we've been a part of West Chester University — and the University a part of us — simply because of the people at WCU," says Marietta.

"Our support of this initiative is a nod to the great legacies of both of our dear friends."

**THE KANE DELANEY COURT WCU BASKETBALL
ENHANCEMENT FUND BY THE NUMBERS AS OF 10/8/24:**



\$256,160

gifts and future commitments

218

gifts

180

donors



A Transformational Legacy

With today's planned gift commitment, two West Chester University champions are ensuring better outcomes for tomorrow's students and student-athletes.

Faculty member, former student athlete, donor, alumna — for Christine “Chris” Karpinski ’89, PhD, RD, CSSD, LDN, (pictured left), her ties to West Chester University run deep.

A former field hockey and lacrosse player, Chris now serves as Professor and Chair of the Department of Nutrition at West Chester University, marrying her passion for athletics and sports with her professional training as an exercise physiologist and dietitian.

Together, with her partner Bev Grove (pictured right), she’s taking that commitment one step further with a planned gift to WCU’s College of Health Sciences and the Department of Athletics. This long-term investment — the largest planned gift in Foundation history — will positively impact the lives of student-athletes and aspiring health professionals for years to come.

“We hope our gift is used for scholarships, programming, and faculty support so that our students receive the best preparation possible,” says Chris.

“On the athletics side, our support of the Sports Performance Team will directly impact the professionals who provide holistic support to student-athletes through vital services like nutrition, sport psychology, mental health counseling, athletic training, and strength and conditioning,” she adds. “Many of these professionals are either volunteering their time or have minimal resources in the budget to support their work.”

Chris and Bev, both lifelong athletes who have lived in the West Chester area for decades, have seen firsthand the impact the University continues to have on the surrounding community, making their decision to give back in such a permanent way an easy one.

“When we were working on our estate plans and thinking about what type of a footprint we wanted to leave, everything kept coming back to West Chester University and the great work going on here,” says Bev. “We’re fortunate that our families are in good shape, so we want to focus our attention here, showing our support for the University’s future.”

“We both believe in the University’s commitment to student success, inclusiveness, a high-quality education at a fair cost, and continuous improvement — and it doesn’t hurt that we’re fans too!” says Chris.

“We’re proud to play a part in ensuring WCU continues to thrive as an institution and an educational community.”

Plan your own legacy today. Get started at
WCUFoundation.org/PlannedGifts

Leave your legacy.

Make a profound impact on future students by documenting a planned gift to West Chester University. Planned giving is an effective and meaningful way to give back to the University and can help you achieve your own charitable and financial goals. With flexible giving options, our team is honored to help and your family leave a legacy at WCU.

We welcome the newest members of the George Morris Philips Society and thank them for their support of West Chester University.

The George Morris Philips Society has more than 470 members who’ve included the Foundation in their estate plans. A special welcome to this year’s new members who are touching the lives of others while creating a legacy at WCU (July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024):

Christine Karpinski ’89 & Beverly Grove
Margaret & Marc E. McMullin ’95
Stephen J. Milles ’61
Robert J. Riley ’70
Clare F. ’83 & William F. Rowland ’78
Patricia A. Stauffer ’78

STATE FARM BY THE NUMBERS:

\$165

first gift in 1995

\$688,555

total giving

Empowering More Students to Lead the Way

As partners in purpose, State Farm Insurance Companies and West Chester University are preparing a new generation of leaders.

Every day, State Farm Insurance agents head to work with the goal of furthering the organization's mission: to help more people recover from the unexpected and realize their dreams. And through a dynamic 27-year partnership, State Farm is helping West Chester University students do just that.

As a corporate partner, State Farm Insurance Companies established the State Farm Leadership Experience, a series of programs, initiatives, and trainings focused on preparing WCU students as the next generation of innovative problem solvers.

"Helping people prepare for the unexpected is what we do at State Farm, and through this partnership, we're helping students prepare for what lies ahead — moving into their next chapter by securing a job and starting their careers," says Dwayne Redd, Corporate Responsibility Analyst at State Farm.

"That's where we see the connection between our missions. We're helping prepare students for the leadership roles they want, ensuring they have the tools to be successful," he adds.

In addition to the program's growth and reach, the proof of the partnership's impact is reflected in the number of West Chester University students who go on to pursue careers with the insurance giant.

"Many of the students we see have already proven their leadership capabilities — they're leading their sports teams, their sororities or fraternities, or their student organizations," says Dwayne. "They already have the leadership mindset, and we have an opportunity to help them nurture and develop those qualities."

Over the years, State Farm has sponsored initiatives including the Michael Horrocks Leadership Institute, Student Affairs Leadership Development, and the Dowdy Multicultural Center, providing valuable experience for students to cultivate integrity, self-awareness, respect, and resilience.

"Leaving college and going on to be a productive citizen — that's a huge step," Dwayne says. "It can be overwhelming, and this is our chance to play a role in preparing them for successful futures."

For more information, visit [WCUFoundation.org/CommunityPartners](https://www.wcu.edu/foundation/communitypartners)

Grateful, and Ready, to Serve

On July 1, the West Chester University Foundation Board of Trustees welcomed Deb Chase as its new president.

When Deborah “Deb” Chase ’76 graduated with a degree in health and education science — embarking on a dynamic career as a United States Army aviator and program management professional — she never imagined how full circle her West Chester University experience would become.

Now, nearly 50 years later, she’s connected with her alma mater in a new way, serving the WCU Foundation as its new board president.

“I’ve been so amazed at the progress and growth of the University over the last five decades. The quality of the

students is eye watering, and their outward display of school spirit is inspiring,” she says. “I’m not sure I would be accepted for admission today, as the standards are so remarkable for today’s students!”

Deb retired from the Army as a Colonel, and subsequently, retired as Director, Program Management from Raytheon, a leader in the Aerospace & Defense industry. She previously served seven years on the board before assuming her latest leadership role and is excited to contribute to WCU’s continued progress and success, helping facilitate continued collaboration between the Foundation and the University. “Philanthropy is the engine behind the University’s growth,

and continued ability to provide scholarships to deserving students,” she says. “Alumni Engagement and the Foundation are so closely aligned right now — there is so much possibility, and I’m excited to be a part of that.”

As Deb begins her tenure as board president, she looks forward to building on the University’s strong foundation, the same one that provided her with an exceptional education, at a reasonable cost, and ultimately, shaped the direction of her life.

Meet Deb Chase, WCU Foundation Board President

Deborah J. Chase ’76:

Retired Colonel, U.S. Army

WCU Degree: BS, Kinesiology

Athletics:

Lacrosse, Field Hockey, and Swimming & Diving

Awards & Recognition:

- Sturzebecker Hall of Fame Award (2013)
- President’s Circle Award (2015)
- 150 Most Influential Women on WCU (2022)
- WCUF Trustee (2013–2020, 2023–present)
- WCUF Board Vice President (2018–2020)
- College of Health Sciences Advisory Board Member (2019–2020)
- College of Health Sciences Commencement Speaker (2018)
- Alpha Eta Society Induction Speaker (2022)

“In many ways, I grew up here at WCU. I had the opportunity to develop basic communication and leadership skills while learning more about who I was and what my potential was,” Deb recalls.

“I’ve gotten so much from this University — not just in my education but in the honors it has bestowed upon me. I just feel really grateful for the opportunity to give back.”

WCU Foundation Board of Trustees

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FOUNDATION
— *Student Success Is Our Mission* —

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Our Mission

The West Chester University Foundation engages donors and other partners to drive student success. We secure funding that helps West Chester University students achieve more.