
The mission of the Worcester State Foundation is to promote the growth and progress of Worcester State University beyond what is possible with state funding.

Points of Pride for Fiscal Year 2019

- More than 4,000 donors supported Worcester State in FY19, the second-highest number of supporters in our history.
- G.B. and Lexi ’85 Singh donated $250,000 to support the Dr. Lillian R. Goodman Department of Nursing. The gift was also used to leverage other gifts at the end of FY19.
- Over $16,200 was raised for the Kathleen O’Hare Havens Memorial Fund in honor of Assistant Vice President of Alumni Affairs Camilla Caffrey’s retirement.
- Teams competing in the March Madness, the 2019 Days of Giving, received more than 1,500 gifts totaling over $72,000, including $12,500 in donated prize money.
- We received over $400,000 in cash and pledges from newly formed scholarships.

At A Glance
(July 1, 2018-June 30, 2019)

$4.47 million
Gifts Received

4,032
Donors

$1.6 million
Transferred from the Foundation for University priorities
including
625,000
in direct student support.

$32.5 million
Total Endowment

3.4 percent
Investment Return

20 percent
Increase in the number of scholarships awarded in the past two years
Net Assets: $32,859,733

Assets Under Management indicates invested funds of WSF and WCC.
Fundraising Effort Receives National Award for Overall Performance

The Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) honored Worcester State with the CASE 2019 Educational Fundraising Award, an honor given each year to exceptional fundraising programs at educational institutions in the United States.

CASE’s Educational Fundraising Awards recognize exemplary fundraising programs and activities. To be considered for the award, Worcester State University had to demonstrate the highest levels of professionalism and best practice in its fundraising efforts and contribute to the betterment of educational advancement worldwide by serving as a model to which others can aspire.

Worcester State was awarded the Overall Performance distinction given to colleges and universities that show solid program growth, breadth in the base of support, and other indications of a mature, well-maintained program, and was based on a blind analysis of three years of fundraising data each institution submits to CASE.

“The beauty of this awards program is that we look at the data not knowing what institution is being represented. In showcasing these best-of-the-best programs, CASE helps its members identify institutions doing smart and innovative work from which everyone can learn,” said Sue Kubik, an accomplished educational fundraiser and long-time CASE volunteer who led the judging panel this year. This is the first time Worcester State has been honored with an award, one of 29 institutions recognized for the first time.

A Fond Farewell

More than $16,200 was raised for the Kathleen O’Hare Havens Memorial Fund in honor of Assistant Vice President of Alumni Affairs Camilla Caffrey’s retirement. For over 20 years, Camilla worked tirelessly to build and shape an alumni office that epitomizes professionalism and dedication to each and every constituency within the University. Her passion and commitment will leave an indelible mark. Many people attended a reception honoring Camilla on Friday, June 28. Vice President of University Advancement Thomas McNamara ’94 said he was excited for her as she begins the next chapter of her life, devoted to her children and grandchildren.
Major Gifts and Initiatives

80 Years Later, Scholarship Honors Sarah Ella Wilson

Saul Feingold established an endowed scholarship to honor his first grade teacher, Sarah Ella Wilson, Class of 1894, for Worcester State students studying to become teachers. Miss Wilson, one of the first African American school teachers in Worcester who taught first grade at the Belmont Street Community School for almost 50 years, jumped him up to first grade, six months sooner than his classmates. He said, “I truly believe that decision changed my life.”

Feingold is CEO of the Feingold Companies, an insurance and financial service company founded by his father, who began his career selling dime-a-week life insurance policies. Feingold focused on pension planning and became a specialist in setting up 401Ks for small businesses. He grew the firm over the years before passing off day-to-day management to his son-in-law. Now 86, the spry Feingold splits his time between homes in Worcester and Florida while also traveling around the world for fun.

Spring Singh Challenge Met

G.B. and Lexi ’85 Singh donated $250,000 for new simulation equipment for the Dr. GB and Lexi Singh Simulation Center in the Dr. Lillian R. Goodman Department of Nursing. The equipment includes life-like simulation dummies, one of which can simulate giving birth, and an Anatomage Table, which is a 3-D virtual dissection table. The Singhs offered a challenge to other donors, called the Spring Singh Challenge, to encourage end-of-year giving.

Scholarship Support From an Early Alumna

The Foundation received $111,111 for scholarships from the disposition of the estate of Eleanor (Totilas) Depenbrook ’37, who passed away in 2018 at the age of 102. After graduation, she moved to Washington, D.C., in 1942 and worked for the U.S. Employment Service, the U.S. Army Air Corps, the Pentagon, and the U.S. Air Force Headquarters. She joined the Federal Research Division of the Library of Congress, where she worked until she retired.
Individual Gifts

- **Gene J. DeFeudis** continues to generously support Worcester State, giving a total of $84,500 to support scholarships and the Foundation’s golf tournament, as well as hosting an annual alumni event at The La Playa Club in Naples, Fla.

- **Imoigele P. Aisiku ’92, M.D.**, gave $83,500 to continue supporting interdisciplinary STEM research initiatives, as well as the Bridge to Excellence lecture series, which brings faculty experts from Brigham & Women’s Hospital to campus to speak to students.


- **Edward and Gail Mastrorio** set up the Aaron E. Mastrorio ’08 Memorial ROTC Scholarship using $36,100 that was donated to a memorial fund in their son’s honor. Aaron died tragically in November 2018 after suffering a massive heart attack while training to become an expert U.S. Army combat medic at Fort Bragg in North Carolina. The scholarship will be given to a junior or senior who is active in extracurricular activities and also a member of ROTC.

- **Joan M. Merrill ’67, M.Ed. ’73, Ph.D.**, donated $30,000 to create The Dr. Joan M. Merrill Endowed Scholarship. The former principal of the Clark Street School and Goddard School of Science and Technology said she want to help future Worcester State students take advantage of the same opportunities she was given.

- **David A. ’76 and Ellen J., M.Ed. ’88, Meyers** pledged $30,000 to establish The David ‘76 and Ellen Meyers, M.Ed. ’88, Endowed Scholarship to honor Ellen’s father, Richard Sussman, who died in 2018. Ellen also passed away in February 2019. Donations in her memory established an academic achievement award for students with disabilities.

- The late **Thomas Todd Jr. ’52** gave $29,635 through one of the first charitable gift annuities established at Worcester State. His gift will be used where it is needed most.

- A surprise gift of $25,000 from the estate of **Kai Hekker** created the Geraldine Condon Memorial Scholarship, which will be awarded to a female business major with a concentration in accounting. The gift honors an act of kindness by an early Worcester State alumna, Geraldine Condon, Class of 1914, who helped Hekker’s wife attend college.
• **Richard S. Juralewicz** gave $25,000 to create the Dr. Joan Keller Juralewicz and Dr. Richard S. Juralewicz Scholarship, to be awarded to a student majoring in education or business.

• **Dorothy J. Manning, M.Ed. ’88**, donated $16,650 to establish The Manning Family Endowed Scholarship for Criminal Justice to honor her late husband, Dan Manning Sr., who passed away in 1997. Don was chief of police in Sherborn, Mass., and at UMass Medical School.

• **Stephen M. Benjamin ’86** gave $15,000 to support the football program, which celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2019.

• **SALMON Health and Retirement** gave $15,000 in support of the SALMON Health and Retirement Scholarship for seniors majoring in business, communication sciences & disorders, nursing, and occupational therapy. This financial support, coupled with the hands-on work experience as a future SALMON employee, will provide recipients with a greater opportunity for success in their healthcare careers.

• **Dale H. Allen, Ph.D.**, donated $12,000 to support the women’s basketball program.

• **Gregg ’86 and Pamela ’87 Rosen** donated $11,156 to the Vincent R. Benedictis Memorial Scholarship and the Worcester State Foundation Golf Tournament.

• **Margaret M. Curran ’54, M.Ed. ’56**, donated $10,000 to establish her second scholarship, The Margaret M. Curran Endowed Scholarship for Business Students, in honor of her 65th reunion.

• **John and Kelley A. Joseph ’87** donated $10,000 to the John & Kelly (Gallagher) Endowed Scholarship for Elementary Education.

• **Nichlas J. Monfreda ’00** gave $10,000 to the Nick and Anna Monfreda Endowed Scholarship for nontraditional students majoring in economics or business administration.

• **James M. Ricciardi** gave $10,000 to the James and Sharon Ricciardi Family Endowed Scholarship for full-time undergraduate students who excel in a STEM field.

At the end of FY18, after the 2018 Annual Report was written, **Donald F. Cushing ’66, M.Ed. ’71**, donated $20,000 to create the Donald F. Cushing ’66, ’71 and Kathleen M. (Kane) Cushing ’65, ’71 Endowed Scholarship for a full-time undergraduate student majoring in English who wants to be a high school English teacher. At right, Emma Gosselin ’20, the first recipient of the scholarship, with Don.
March Madness Teams Secure 1,500 gifts in 48 Hours

Teams competing in the March Madness, the 2019 Days of Giving, received more than 1,500 gifts totaling over $72,000, including $12,500 in donated prize money. Teams raising money for Thea’s Pantry, the softball team, and the cheerleaders won their respective brackets, earning an additional $1,000 for their cause.

In this first-of-its-kind crowdfunding competition, teams representing academic centers and programs, student groups, and athletic programs tapped their social networks to see who could raise the most gifts per team member over two days, March 19-20. The bracketed competition replicated the thrill of the NCAA’s iconic basketball tournament, with teams advancing to the next round by raising more gifts per team member than their competition.

Phil Wasylean III ‘63, Gregg Rosen ‘86, and President Barry M. Maloney each sponsored a bracket and provided prize money for the winning teams, as well as additional prizes for Power Hour winners. Certain hours were designated as Power Hours throughout the 48 hour competition, and teams that raised the most gifts per team member during those hours, no matter their status in the brackets, received an additional $250.

The Latino Education Institute (LEI)

- Renewal grants totaling $43,000 from the Greater Worcester Community Foundation enabled the LEI to sustain their Early Connections and ENLACE (Encouraging Latinos to Achieve Excellence) programming improving the educational outcomes of more Latino children and teens from the city of Worcester.
- The Quality Enhancements in After-School and Out-of-School Time (ASOST-Q) grant program from the MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education awarded the LEI a two-year grant of $60,000.
- An award of $20,000 from the Massachusetts United for Puerto Rico Fund at The Boston Foundation supported the LEI’s Club Educación (Club E) program. Through this initiative, the LEI
enhanced its family programming to reach Hurricane Maria evacuees and their children living in Central Massachusetts.

- **Eversource** awarded the LEI a $2,500 grant from to support the Club Educación (Club E) program.
- The **Ruth H. and Warren A. Ellsworth Foundation** awarded a $7,500 grant to support the LEI’s WIPLE program supporting parent engagement in Worcester County.
- A sponsorship of $30,000 from **American Student Assistance** enabled the LEI to expand educational programming in Springfield.
- **The Nellie Mae Foundation** committed multiple awards to the LEI providing more than $100,000 to support their role furthering civic engagement by Latino youth and for educational outreach at the statewide level.
- **The Lloyd G. Balfour Foundation, Bank of America, N.A., Trustee**, awarded LEI a renewal grant of $75,000 from for the continuation and expansion of the Latinos Involved in Discovering Educational Resources (LIDER): College Readiness & Success Program for Underserved Youth in Worcester and Springfield.
- **The United Way of Central Massachusetts** renewed their support via the United Way Women’s Initiative grant program funding the LEI’s Latina Achievers in Search of Success (LASOS) with a $36,000 grant.
- **The George F. and Sybil H. Fuller Foundation** continued its generous scholarship funding with a $10,000 grant to support former participants of the LEI programs.

**Academic Excellence**

- **The Scholarship Committee** reviewed 1,099 applications from Worcester State students and made 323 individual awards. In all, over $338,000 in annual student support was committed to the University from the Worcester State Foundation as a result of the generosity of our donors.

- The Dr. Lillian R. Goodman Department of Nursing was awarded a multi-year grant of $180,000 from the **E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation** in support of the M.S. in Nursing—Community and Public Health Nursing Specialization program.

- **National Grid** gave $5,000 award to support scholarships for undergraduate students studying in the STEM field.

- **TJX Foundation** renewed funding for the TJX/Robin Kaplan Scholarship with a $10,000 grant, providing 10 deserving students with important financial aid each year. Since the Scholarship’s inception over 190 students have been the recipient of this generous fund.

- To mark the 65th Anniversary of its founding, **Leominster Credit Union (LCU)** established an endowed scholarship at Worcester State University to help LCU employees, members of the Board of Directors, and LCU members—or their children or grandchildren—pay for college. This gift represents the second time LCU has offered
significant support to Worcester State. The Leominster Credit Union Cardio Area in the DeFeudis Fitness Center provides students with a space they can use to improve their stamina and speed.

**Vibrant Campus Life, Civic Engagement, Promoting Success**

- **Digital Federal Credit Union** awarded renewed support at the $50,000 level to pilot and sustain experiential learning in Worcester County. Unique campus and community-based programs that were enhanced include:
  - The WSU **Speech-Language-Hearing Center (SLHC)** partnership with the Nativity School in Worcester to provide community-based screenings.
  - **The Aisiku ’92 STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics) Center** expansion of academic support programs for disadvantaged youth from Worcester and freshman WSU students including:
    - The Chemistry Department’s second annual Environmental STEM Connections, a summer academic-enrichment program supporting Worcester high-school students.
    - The Bridge to Excellence: Summer STEM Retention Program, which helps underprepared students meet the rigors of higher education by providing personalized academic support to improve their readiness for their first semester as a college student.
  - **The Urban Action Institute**, the outreach and community action arm of the University’s Urban Studies Department, used its allocation to continue several community-based programs: Thea’s Food Pantry, the WSU Teaching Garden, and the Making Worcester Home project.
  - **The Latino Education Institute** allocated their investment into expanding their adult English-as-a-Second Language (ESL) courses for hurricane evacuees in Worcester, offered as a special module of LEI’s Club Educación (Club E) ESL program.
  - **The WSU Office of Student Accessibility Services** (SAS) has allocated its funding to increase the department’s capacity. Through the purchase of a variety of assistive devices the University is well-positioned to meet the unique teaching and learning needs of students with temporary or permanent challenges with mental health, chronic health, sensory ability, physical health/mobility, and learning ability.

- **The Worcester Center for Crafts** was awarded $2,500 from the Ramsey-McCluskey Foundation and $2,500 from the Schwartz Charitable Foundation to support youth programming.
Engaging Students

Alumni returned to campus to share their career knowledge with Worcester State students about to enter the professional world. Called “Backpack to Briefcase,” the seminars covered essential skills, such as dining etiquette, interviewing, and social media use, culminating in an student-alumni networking dinner Thursday, March 7.

Sponsored by the Alumni Office and the student group Enactus, the two weeks of seminars included presentations on dining etiquette; “Social Media Dos & Don’t” by Lauren O’Neill ’13, assistant director of career services at the College of the Holy Cross; and the art of the elevator pitch, by Derek Canton ’15, entrepreneur and founder of the restaurant bill paying app Paerpay. Photographer Matt Wright ’10 also took free portraits for use in LinkedIn profiles.

The final event, Dinner with Strangers, connected students with successful alumni across a wide-range of careers and graduation years. Throughout the academic year, the successful Alumni Connection series also offered students the opportunity to gather together for an evening event panel and networking with our best and brightest alumni.

Events

- Alumni celebrated Reunion 2019 on May 17-18, starting first with the very popular Golden Graduates luncheon and the Party on the Eve, honoring the Class of 2019, both on May 17, and Class Dinners on May 18. Several members of the Class of 1969, marking their 50th Reunion, walked in the Commencement procession at the DCU Center with Board of Trustees Vice Chair Maryanne Hammond '69, M.A. '72, leading the way.

Of particular note:
- $80,000 was raised for University initiatives from the classes of 1954, 1959, 1964, 1969, 1974, and 1979.
- Since their 40th reunion, members of the Class of 1969 have raised enough money to award three scholarships.
- Margaret Curran '54, M.Ed. '56, donated $10,000 to establish her second scholarship, The Margaret M. Curran Endowed Scholarship for Business Students, in honor of her 65th reunion.
• Tom '59 and Rachel Costello '59 and Paul '59 and Ellen Cuddy '59 created Adopt-A-Scholar scholarships in honor of their 60th reunions.

• **Renee King Diaz '12**, owner of the Queen’s Cups, was the keynote speaker at Worcester State University’s 143rd commencement exercises, May 18. In all, 1,236 students were eligible to walk across the DCU stage. The graduates’ walk through life, although it may turn out to be equally as rewarding, will nevertheless be much more complex, Diaz told the Class of 2019. Before the conferral of degrees, the University presented Diaz with a Community Service Award, highlighting the many contributions she has made to organizations, groups, and the communities of Worcester and Millbury.

• **Robert K. O’Brien ’58** received the **2019 I. Robert Freelander Award** at the Worcester State Foundation Board meeting on Thursday, June 13, in appreciation for his support of scholarships, academic programs, and a student entrepreneurship contest that has inspired at least two young alumni to found their own startups. According to Vice President for Advancement Thomas McNamara ’94, O’Brien received the award “for the gifts that he has given, but more importantly perhaps, for the lives he has changed with those gifts.” The I. Robert Freelander Award is given to an individual or organization whose professional accomplishments, devotion, and philanthropic support of Worcester State University represents and reflects the principles, ideals, spirit, and benevolence of the late I. Robert Freelander, a founding member of the Worcester State Foundation.
• The annual **Young Alumni President’s Circle (YAPC)** donor recognition event was well attended on Saturday, Jan. 26, at the Worcester Club. Members of this premier recognition club are graduates of the past 10 years who have committed to gifts of $500 (6-10 years out) or $250 (1-5 years out) spread over five years. In addition to showing their support of Worcester State, YAPC members are able to network and learn from each other, and reach out to students to help them prepare for their future careers.

• Five alumni were awarded the highest non-degree honor bestowed by the University at the **Distinguished Alumni Awards** on Sept. 20. Honored were:
  
  o Jamie Binienda ‘99, *Outstanding Volunteer Service to the Community*
  o James M. Lewis ‘94, *Outstanding Achievement in the Field of Education*
  o Susan R. (Harris) O’Connor ‘85, MSW, LICSW, *Distinguished Professional Achievement*
  o Sharon S. (Valiquette) McDonald ‘86, *Outstanding Service to Alma Mater*
  o Joseph D. Nawn ‘13, *Outstanding Young Alumnus*

• Students met donors at the **Scholars and Sponsors Salute** in the Wellness Center on Saturday, Sept. 29. The celebration allowed donors to meet and talk with the students who directly benefit from their generosity. And it gave students the opportunity to thank the many alumni and friends who support Worcester State.

• The Reach Out and Touch Somebody’s Hand Alumni Council continued its engagement efforts through the **Birthday Brunch with the President**. Held three times a year, the brunch gathers together alumni to celebrate their birthdays, complete with a cupcake from The Queen’s Cups, owned by alumna Renee King ’12.

*Worcester State Foundation 2019 Annual Report*
Enrollment, Retention, and Student Success

- **The Student Research, Scholarship and Creativity Program** awarded $16,542 to students over two semesters. The program supports full-time, undergraduate and graduate students in creative, scholarly, or research projects related to their academic programs, including supporting approved travel expenses for presentations or competition in professional or academic conferences or competitions.

- Jacklyn Joncas, T.J. Mulgrew, and Dominique Lee won first prize in the **2018 Robert K. O’Brien ’58 Next Big Idea Contest** on Tuesday, Dec. 11, for proposing a solution to the daily frustration of parking on campus: an app that combines ride sharing technology with a valet parking system. PRK (pronounced “park”) would allow a student to indicate through the app that he or she is arriving on campus and in need of a parking space. The user would arrange to meet an Uber-like contractor, who might be a fellow student looking for some extra money, and hand off the car for parking. The PRK employee would find a parking spot, return the keys to the student (perhaps in class or at a central location), and let the customer know where it is located.

- More than 50 nursing alumni, faculty, and friends gathered for a reunion to honor Professor Emerita Barbara Giguere, R.N., Ed.D, on Saturday, Oct. 13, to mark her retirement after more than 37 years at Worcester State. To celebrate her service, **The Barbara Giguere R.N., Ed.D Global Nursing Exchange Program Fund** has been established to support various global nursing exchange opportunities throughout the world.

- Worcester’s own nationally noted fashion designer **James Hogan** donated more than $5,000 in fabric to WSU’s costume design shop. He also spoke to the costume design and theater classes, telling stories of his younger days as a frequent patron of New York City’s legendary Studio 54 nightclub.
Helping Ensure Financial Stability

- The Athletic Department hosted the first all-athletics golf tournament on June 3, at the Wachusett Country Club, raising almost $10,000 for Lancer athletic teams. During the tournament, there was a special recognition of former athletic trainer Oscar Larson, who passed away at age 100 in August.

- Golfers and sponsors of the 26th Annual Worcester State Foundation Golf Tournament raised more than $100,000 for scholarships and other University priorities. The tournament took place at Wachusett Country Club in West Boylston and Kettle Brook Golf Club in Paxton on Monday, Aug. 5. Once again, Gene J. DeFeudis was the tournament’s Presenting Sponsor.

- The Office of Corporate and Foundation Relations (OCFR) directed philanthropic activities last year to support faculty development, student scholarship, academic research, and community-based programming. The OCFR led cross-department planning, facilitated the private corporate and foundation grants program, and supported major gift initiatives. In FY19, the Foundation exceeded its $1 million-dollar goal for corporate and foundation funding by raising $1,427,000 in private grants, corporate gifts, and sponsorships.