

DONORS OPEN DOORS FOR CMU STUDENTS

COLORADO MESA UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION
ANNUAL REPORT

COLORADO MESA

FOUNDATION



OPENING DOORS





FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

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DONOR HONOR ROLL

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MISSION

The mission of the Colorado Mesa University Foundation is to strengthen educational opportunities at Colorado Mesa University through the generation and distribution of all gift assets. The Foundation serves as the depository for all charitable gifts and acts in a fiduciary capacity as exclusive agent for donor activity.

here is one word that describes 2020. It is COVID-19. It has been one of the defining events of this year and it has disrupted every facet of our lives. Colorado Mesa University has not been immune to the effects of the virus.

But we implemented a plan to deal with the virus, called "Safe Together, Strong Together," and it is the product of hundreds of hours of work by dozens of dedicated CMU employees from virtually every department of the university. Early on in the pandemic we decided we'd do everything we could to bring students back to campus this fall. It wasn't easy but at least through the first few months it appears to be successful. The infection rate at CMU so far has been nearly negligible and relatively under control.

COVID-19 was a hurdle unlike any we've ever encountered, but it didn't stop us from continuing our primary mission: Providing quality post-secondary education to the thousands of students from around Colorado, the U.S. and foreign countries who choose to come here. So far, we have continued to do that, and have expanded the services we offer them.

We have embarked on a fundraising campaign to bolster our Mesa Scholarship Initiative, a financial aid package tailored for Mesa County students. Learn more about it on page 5.

As always, none of this is possible without the generous support of the community, alumni and other supporters.

Donors have also stepped up to help us battle COVID-19. Students live on tight budgets and when crises such as COVID-19 come without warning they are often left with not enough money to make ends meet every month. The CMU Foundation recognized early on the potential financial harm COVID-19 could cause on the CMU campus. The Maverick Relief Fund was quickly created, offering students impacted by COVID-19 financial help to keep them in school. It has been a

resounding success — raising more than \$143,000 of a \$125,000 goal as of the beginning of the fall semester. (Read more about it on page 7.) That generosity speaks volumes about both the quality and quantity of CMU's loyal and ever-growing donor base.

We have created, for the first time on the CMU campus, a place where members of the CMU community can retreat for contemplation, prayer or simply to put their thoughts in order. We call it the Center for Reflection and you can read about it on page 8.

All of us at CMU say: Thank you for your continued support. It's been a challenging few months at CMU, and the next few, or more, are not likely to be any easier. We couldn't do it without you.

Sincerely,

Tim Foster, President Colorado Mesa University

AN INSIDE LOOK

DONORS OPEN DOORS FOR CMU STUDENTS
 The Mesa Scholarship Initiative, the Maverick Relief Fund and the Center for Reflection are helping students thrive at CMU.
 FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS
 ANNUAL DONOR HONOR ROLL
 HONOR ROLL

DONORS OPEN DOORS FOR CMU STUDENTS



JOE HIGGINS LEADS FUNDRAISING FOR THE MESA SCHOLARSHIP INITIATIVE

oe Higgins likes to tell a story about his trip to Alaska last year. He was in Juneau and coincidentally ran into a young woman from Fruita, Colorado. They struck up a conversation and he learned that she had just graduated from high school and took a job in Alaska.

As they talked, Joe learned that wasn't what she really wanted to do, it was just a good way to make some money. What she had wanted to do was attend CMU, but her mother had been stricken by illness and had to quit work. Half the family income was gone and financially CMU was out of the picture for her.

Higgins mentioned that he was on the board of the CMU Foundation. She said she had heard a rumor that anyone who lives in Mesa County could go to CMU tuition free and wanted to know if that was true. Not exactly, he said. However, he is involved with spearheading the fundraising for a program where funding will be available for any Mesa County high school graduate who wants to attend CMU or WCCC.

It's known as the Mesa Scholarship Initiative (MSI), and it grew from some statistics that crossed the desk of President Tim Foster a few years ago. In a nutshell, the data he saw showed that high school graduates from families with the lowest incomes and the highest incomes had much higher rates of post-secondary education than those in the middle incomes.

How, he wondered, could CMU help those middleincome families? The other question was how to pay for it

CMU approached the City of Grand Junction, which, three years ago, agreed to fund a substantial scholarship program for Mesa County students to attend CMU or WCCC. Since inception, that program has grown to provide hundreds of students with scholarship assistance. Higgins wanted to build a sustainable pool of funds to compliment the city's efforts.

Tim Foster calls the city's support and the Mesa Scholarship Initiative "one of those things that just makes sense." He is appreciative of the city's generous support and is optimistic that it will continue even with the budgetary problems COVID-19 has caused.

"Basic municipal services are important," he said. "But human capital is just as important if not

more so." The City of Grand Junction realizes that.

Higgins and his fellow board members have a goal of a \$10 million endowment to supplement





Foundation Board member **Bottom:** Patti and Chuck
Shear, MSI donors, with CMU

scholarship recipients.



Photo taken before March 2020.



The Mesa Scholarship Initiative provides students and families with knowledge and guidance about educational opportunities and the financial resources to pay for them.

the city's annual commitment. It's an ambitious undertaking, but one Higgins thinks can be accomplished. To date, the endowment includes more than \$2.5 million in funds raised.

Two people who have been generous to the Mesa Scholarship Initiative are Chuck and Patti Shear and their son, Quint. Both endowed scholarships, Chuck and Patti on their own with a \$60,000 investment and Quint as president of Shear Inc. for \$30,000. Chuck said he and their company have endowed many scholarships throughout the years, but they were mostly aimed at students who wanted careers in the energy industry.

"This sounded like a good program to me because it's for local kids," he said. "We like to invest in kids and give them a chance at a great education at CMU."

The Shear family has helped get the program off the ground but Higgins knows there is much work to be done. For several months beginning last year he hosted small lunches with potential donors. That effort was fruitful, but it was put on hiatus because of the pandemic. He and other Foundation Board members resumed them this fall.

Higgins was the executive director of Mesa County Partners, a program for at-risk youth, for more than 30 years before retiring five years ago. In one respect he thinks the Mesa Scholarship Initiative is an extension of the work he did there. "For many years at Partners," he said, "I saw how kids could turn their lives around if given an opportunity."

Scholarship recipients though aren't the only ones to benefit. "We know that post-secondary education creates more involved and engaged citizens," said Foundation CEO Liz Meyer. "The entire community benefits from that."

MESA SCHOLARSHIP INITIATIVE DONORS

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Chuck & Patti Shear
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CONTINUING THEIR EDUCATION WITH THE MAVERICK RELIEF FUND

essica Hurdebei (pictured below) is a CMU student who paid a majority of her bills by living on what she made in tips waitressing. It wasn't easy but she was getting by. She worked in sales since she was 14 to be able to pursue becoming a mediator.

Then COVID-19 caused her life's dream to come abruptly crashing down. Within a few short weeks, her job vanished and she had no way to continue in school. Or so she thought.

She questioned how she might afford both school and her living expenses. Instead of dropping out, she heard about the Maverick Relief Fund, a fund created by the CMU Foundation to help students who were financially devastated by COVID-19.

She applied for funding and received help from the relief fund. The good news — she's still in school.

"My anxieties ... are high during this pandemic," she said. "Luckily CMU has done a great job supporting its students."

When COVID-19 struck last spring the need for supporting students like Jessica was greater than ever. But to help her and many other students, the CMU Foundation knew they would have to create a new playbook, and do it quickly amidst a significant amount of uncertainty.

"We were suddenly faced with students who may have relied on their parents for financial support and their parents may have lost their jobs. Students, like Jessica, may have lost their jobs because employers either had to close, or in some cases, go out of business altogether," said Foundation CEO Liz Meyer.

For those reasons and others, the Foundation quickly launched the Maverick Relief Fund. The goal was simple and straightforward: Provide micro-grants to CMU students who through no fault of their own were suddenly facing financial hardship as a result of COVID-19.

The Foundation set a fundraising goal of \$125,000 and at the beginning of the fall semester more than \$140,000 had been raised.

Meyer said the support from the community was more than she ever expected.

"So many businesses, individuals and organizations stepped up and gave to the relief fund. It was gratifying beyond all expectations and thanks to their generosity there are many students still in school who otherwise may not have been. I can't think of anything the Foundation has done that speaks more to the caring extended community that is Colorado Mesa University."





he creation of CMU's Center for Reflection, a quiet retreat for members of the university community to pray, reflect, or just think, is the result of a perfect storm of interest by community members, students and the CMU administration.

Robert Bray, co-chair of the fundraising efforts, along with Craig Springer, recalls a visit to Notre Dame University several years ago. He was struck by the beauty and serenity of the chapel there. He had wondered often throughout the years why CMU couldn't also have such a space. Pat Bishop, a long-time supporter of CMU and widow of former State Senator Tillie Bishop, too, had advocated for such a space on the CMU campus for many years. Enter President Tim Foster, who in his many talks with students found they also wanted a quiet place to contemplate, pray or just be alone with their thoughts.

Those forces coalesced to create the striking structure just north of the new Hotel Maverick.

"People need a place to reflect," Bray said. The fundraising effort was due to kick off in earnest last spring, but was placed on hold. It is underway this fall



Pat Bishop with her late husband, Tillie Bishop, at a Donors and Scholars celebration.

along with construction of the Center for Reflection. The CMU Foundation with Bray, Bishop and Springer's help has already raised close to \$300,000 of the \$500,000 goal with help from a significant lead gift from Pat Bishop.

She is adamant about the purpose of the Center. "It's for the students. Students should have a place of









The sanctuary is a place that accommodates all means of student spiritual needs including reflection, meditation, relaxation, prayer and other ways that students focus on what gives their lives meaning.



The outdoor meditation and reflection garden is adjacent to the sanctuary.

solitude to go to. I think that is so important," said Bishop.

CMU supporter and former trustee Lena Elliott said she too has long wanted such a space at CMU and she credits Bishop for never giving up on the idea. "I've wanted this for years and years," she said, "and I'm so proud of Pat for making it happen."

The effort to create a quiet, contemplative space on the CMU campus has had several false starts during the years. Bishop has been involved in all of them, but it wasn't until about a year ago that the plans crystalized. Construction on what will be one of the most outstanding buildings on campus began late this summer.

"It is not meant to conduct services," Foster said. "It's just a very comfortable place for anyone who wants to participate in any type of reflection. They can do so in



CMU Director of Facilities, David Detwiler, Robert Bray and Craig Springer visit the construction site of the Center for Reflection.

this space." In addition to the indoor space there will be a memorial wall on the grounds where students can hold candlelight vigils or just have a quiet, outdoor space to enjoy.

"At some point during the day or the week, people just need a place they can go sit down and get their thoughts together," Foster said.

The Center for Reflection will be that place. •



FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

he 2019-2020 fiscal year was another strong year in the CMU Foundation's history. Generous donors gave \$7.5M to directly support the mission of CMU and dedicated over \$2M to the permanent endowment. These funds provide critical support for student scholarships, capital initiatives, academic departments, student clubs and athletic teams. In addition to these generous annual gifts, the CMU Foundation awarded a record \$2.9M in scholarships during the 19-20 fiscal year. We could not provide this support without the continued generosity of all our donors.

As we reflect on another decade, it is important to note some significant growth in the private support of CMU and our students. Since 2010, we have increased the endowment by nearly \$30M and continued to grow the number of individual donor endowments, a list of which can be found on page 12. In the last 10 years, donors have generously given over \$60M in support for CMU and we thank you on behalf of our students.

—Liz Meyer, Foundation CEO



3,157 Number of donors

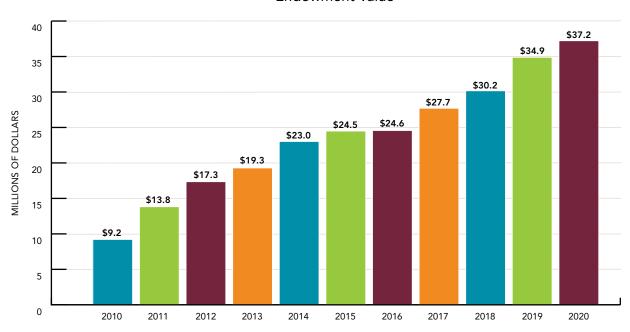
\$7,506,836

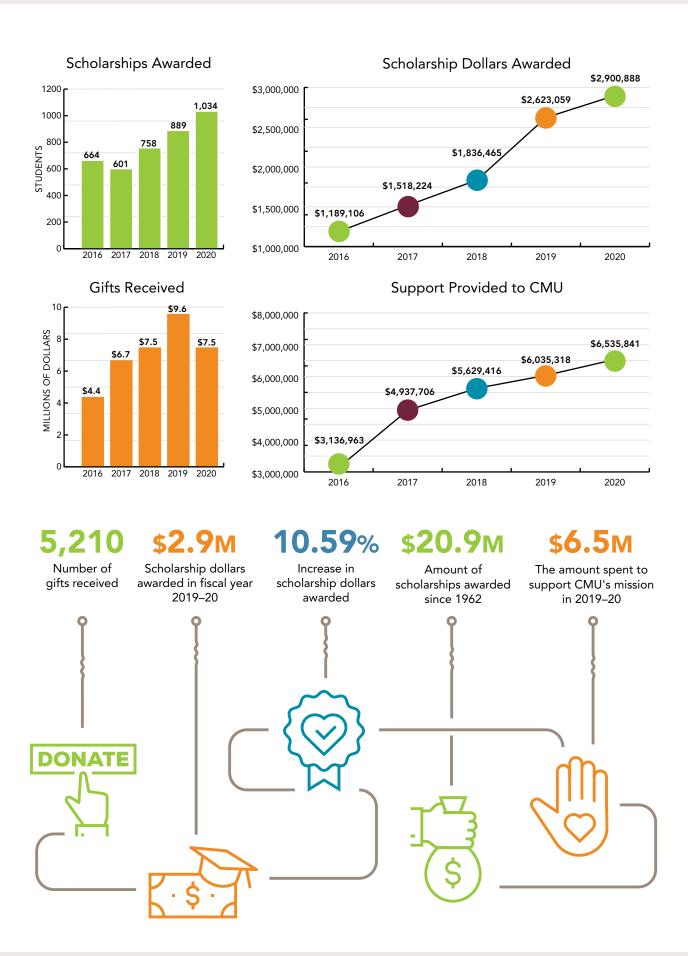
Value of gifts received

\$37,213,188

Endowment value

Endowment Value







COLORADO MESA UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION

- Ted and Maxine Albers Scholarship Arbaney Family Endowed Scholarship
- № B & B Electric Scholarship
 Bacon Family Foundation
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 Scholarship
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- ∞ Dan Brant Jr. Memorial Scholarship
- ∞ Cullen R. Brown Endowed Scholarship
- Brownson Memorial Leadership Scholarship
 Blanche Buescher Business
 Endowed Scholarship Fund

1925 is a very important year for Colorado Mesa University; the year of its founding. The Foundation cannot overstate the significant role that endowments play in scholarship support for students. Therefore, the 1925 Society was created to celebrate the individuals with the foresight and generosity to establish endowed funds of \$25,000 or greater that will benefit students for generations to come.

Endowed funds are used to provide permanent funding and scholarship opportunities to CMU. Funds are invested and the generated earnings go to support an area of CMU as directed by the founder.

 ∞ Indicates a contribution to the endowment in fiscal year 2019–2020.

- Ernest D. Buescher Memorial Endowed Scholarship Kristopher B. Buescher Memorial Scholarship
- Nora Reed Burleigh Endowed Scholarship
- ∞ Dr. Dorr Burns Computer Science Scholarship
- ∞ Doyle E. Burns Scholarship
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- CMU Alumni Association Scholarship
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- CMU Emeriti/Retired Staff Scholarship
- ∞ Celeste Colgan Study Abroad Scholarship
- ∞ Continuing Unexpected
 Connections/MSI Endowment
- ∞ Copeland Family Endowed Scholarship
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- ∞ Rusty Crick Womens Volleyball Scholarship
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- Richard D. Dayvault Endowed Memorial Scholarship
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- Dixson B.A.S. in Business Administration Endowed Scholarship Dixson Scholar/Mentor Award Mary Elizabeth (McDonald) Dolan Scholarship
- Chet Enstrom Memorial Scholarship
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 FirstBank of Colorado Low Income Scholarship
- Foltz Family Scholarship Endowment
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Students

- © Eric "The Hawk" Hawkins Men's Basketball Endowed Scholarship Esther Herr Memorial Scholarship Lou Morton & Dale J. Hollingsworth Poli-Sci Scholarship
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- Madsen Family MSI
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- Maverick Innovation Center Opportunity Fund
- MBA Alumni Scholarship Endowment
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- Meyer Family Endowment Don Meyers Art Scholarship
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 Mark Zoppel Memorial

Scholarship



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Thank you to our annual donors for their dedication to supporting student success at Colorado Mesa University. The following donors made gifts of \$1,000 or more to the CMU Foundation between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020. We also greatly appreciate the 3,000+ donors who are not listed but made a significant impact on the educational experience of all CMU students.

Top: The Sturm family touring the Sturm-ANB Bank Mobile Learning Lab, during its unveiling road show in October 2019.

Below: Anode Systems Company President and Owner, Hans Schmoldt, who invested in Mesa County scholarships, with President Foster and employees outside Houston Hall lecture room 139, which now bears the company name.





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\$100,000 and above

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Anonymous (2)

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Juli Jacobson

David and Martha James Jay and Kathleen Jefferson Robert and Louann Jenkins Jet Boat Colorado

JGMS Doug Jones





Donors and Scholars event at Colorado Mesa University on September 11, 2019.

From far left to right: Jerry Sheetz and Craig Fossett with two soccer team members; Maxine Carnes with two Mesa OutLoud members; Sandy Harding, Kris Mort and Cyrie Wortman with two soccer players; Karen Troester with two Rodeo members.

Phil and Melissa Jones Linda Jordan Austin and Lauren Kaiser Jeremy Kaufmann Kevin Kearns Reese and Natalie Kegans Terri Kegans Rich Keller Ken Richards Insurance Agency Rosie Kerns Loralee Kerr Waggar and Thea Khan-Faroogi Randall and Yun Kim Kimbrough & Company Mike and Kim Knowles Jill and Robert Knuckles Ed and Kathy Krey Roger Lambrecht The Lampshadians Leonard and Patricia Lapkin Becky Lee Linda Lee The Estate of Mary Locke Shanta Loecker Cristal Loehr Sam Lohse Paul and Trudy Lopez Lea Lyster M & M Concrete Construction Daniel and Jean MacDonald Chris and Trish Mahre Cathy Manchee Curt and Laurie Martin Scott and Lisa Martin Martha Marvel Darrel and Janet Mattivi Charles and Ruth Maurer Mays Sports Club Christine Maxbauer Molly Mccord

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Mike and Paula McCormick

Chris and Heather McKim



Rush Realty

Left: The newest Maverick sculpture was unveiled at the Employee Alumni Appreciation Luncheon during Homecoming Week in October 2019. A naming contest was held and student Paige Dickman won with Angus "Gus."

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In honor of my late husband
Dean and my mother Consuelo
Murdoch Roy, I've established
scholarships in each of their names.
At this time, I fund each with
annual contributions, but as part
of my estate I've made plans for
them to become fully endowed.

Funding these scholarships in this manner allows me to immediately enjoy helping students while at the same time having the comfort of knowing Dean and my mother's memory will live



in perpetuity; as will the impact of these funds.

- Suzanne Quamme



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