



FIND YOUR PHILANTHROPY

A GUIDE TO INVESTING IN THE STUDENTS OF COLORADO MESA UNIVERSITY





GUIDING YOUR SUPPORT

Colorado Mesa University (CMU) is a growing and dynamic institution with many opportunities for donors to positively impact students. The CMU Foundation was established in 1961 to receive and solicit charitable gifts for both CMU and Western Colorado Community College. There are no fees assessed by the CMU Foundation — 100% of philanthropic support goes to the students, program, scholarship or project to which they are designated.

An Open Gift

By providing an open gift, your investment will be strategically used to maximize impact. It will be applied when and where it is needed most to help students.

Program Support

Gifts to academic programs, special initiatives, student organizations and athletic teams can provide expanded and enhanced educational opportunities at CMU.

State-of-the-Art Facilities

CMU has evolved from a local junior college to a nationally-recognized university. Not only has the student population grown, so have the number and types of academic programs. This expansion and improvement is made possible through the generosity of private donors. A recent example is the Tomlinson Library renovation which was made possible by private donor support (photo below).

Colorado donors contributing to capital projects may be eligible to receive a 25% state Enterprise Zone tax credit.

Student Scholarships

Tuition, fees and other expenses can often be the biggest hurdle for students to overcome in their journey to earning a degree or certificate. Scholarship donors can establish selection criteria on named scholarships established at the CMU Foundation.

Endowed Scholarships: Endowed funds are a corpus of assets, which are invested to generate earnings in perpetuity. Those earnings are used for scholarships or to support Colorado Mesa University as designated by the founder. A minimum investment of \$25,000 is required to establish a named, endowed fund. You may contribute any amount to existing endowed funds. Named endowed funds receive special recognition as part of the 1925 Society for their important contribution to students.

Annual Scholarships: These scholarships are not permanent and are awarded to students through annual contributions. To establish a named annual scholarship a minimum commitment of \$1,200 per year is required.

““ Scholarships made it possible for me to attend CMU. I can't thank donors enough for helping me to fulfill my dream of graduating from college. ””

— Brooke Houston, political science,
May 2017 graduate (photo below)





CASH

Cash gifts help students immediately and provide you a charitable tax deduction. Colorado residents can benefit from a 25% state Enterprise Zone tax credit on donations of at least \$250 to capital projects.

APPRECIATED ASSETS

Gifts of appreciated stock, securities and properties can help you avoid capital gains tax and use the current fair market value of the asset for charitable income tax deductions.

LIFE INSURANCE

Name the CMU Foundation as a beneficiary of your life insurance policy or transfer ownership and receive a tax deduction.

RETIREMENT PLAN ASSETS

If you are a donor 70 ½ years-of-age, or older, you may direct your IRA Required Minimum Distribution to the CMU Foundation and avoid income tax as required by the IRS. This may also enable you to leave more favorably taxed assets to your family.

ESTATE AND LEGACY GIFTS

Leaving a bequest in your will or living trust provides you ownership and use of your property during your life and provides an estate tax charitable deduction.

TRUSTS

A charitable lead trust can provide a tax deduction and allow you to pass your assets on to your family. Establishing a charitable remainder trust can provide income and charitable tax deductions during your life and avoidance of capital gains tax.

HOW YOU CAN BUILD STUDENT SUCCESS

The CMU Foundation is capable of receiving a wide variety of assets depending upon your philanthropic goals. Often a donor only considers their income when envisioning the investment they are capable and comfortable making. Each donor's circumstance is unique and a careful review of your assets, family and life obligations, and potential tax benefits can reveal the true level of impact you can provide students. When considering any gift planning, please seek the advice of your own legal, tax or financial professionals.

START YOUR JOURNEY TODAY:

The CMU Foundation is here to facilitate and guide you on your philanthropic journey. We strive to help you reach your destination and impact the lives of students here at CMU and WCCC. To discuss supporting CMU, please contact the Foundation at 970.248.1902.

CMU Foundation

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The CMU Foundation serves as a charitable non-profit organization under Internal Revenue Service 501 (c) (3) designation, and retains fiduciary responsibility for the investment of the funds entrusted to it. Annual reports, audited financial statements, relevant forms and governance information are available on the Foundation's website or by request. Information contained in this brochure is applicable as of its printing in November of 2018 and may be subject to future change.

