



FAIRMONT STATE FOUNDATION

Official Newsletter - March 2021

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Fairmont State honors Hutson family for contributions to School of Nursing

Fairmont State philanthropists Rusty and Kimberly Hutson were recently honored during a press conference for a series of gifts totaling \$500,000 to benefit the School of Nursing. The celebration included the unveiling of the newly named Rusty & Kimberly Hutson Family Nursing Simulation Laboratory.

The event recognized two separate gifts from the Hutson Family made to the Fairmont State Foundation, Inc. The first is a \$200,000 gift to create the Rusty & Kimberly Hutson Family Fund for Nursing, which was created to match a similar gift made by Mon Health this summer. The second gift of \$300,000 is for the creation of the Rusty & Kimberly Hutson Nursing Discretionary Endowment. Both gifts will provide support to the School of Nursing with a goal of hiring additional faculty in order to increase student capacity and purchase equipment to continue training students at an elite level.

"Kimberly and I are thrilled to be investing in the Fairmont State Nursing program and giving back to another academic curriculum that is near and dear to our hearts. Kimberly graduated from the Nursing School and she knows first-hand the quality in the education she received and the opportunities it presented her. We see this as giving back once again to the institution that presented us with so many opportunities in life. With this financial support, we are excited about the increase in the number of nursing students that can be trained here at Fairmont State and are hopeful that they will stay in West Virginia and apply their skills to providing quality health care to our state's most precious resource, it's people."

"The Hutson family recognizes the need for more nurses in West Virginia and that these caregivers need to receive the best training possible," said School of Nursing Dean Laura Clayton. "An old Chinese proverb says 'Tell me and

I will forget. Show me, and I may remember. Involve me, and I will understand.' The use of simulation in nursing education allows nursing students to be actively involved in learning and develop their clinical decision-making skills."

These contributions are the most recent in a series of gifts totaling more than \$1 million in support to Fairmont State. Previous gifts include the establishment the Rusty & Kimberly Hutson Family Endowed Scholarship for the benefit of School of Business and a multi-year commitment for scholarships from the Hutsons' business, Diversified Gas & Oil Co.

"We can't thank the Hutsons enough for the support that they are providing to Fairmont State University through these generous gifts and their previous giving," said Julie Cryser, Fairmont State Foundation president. "Because of the Hutsons' most recent gift, Fairmont State will not only have additional funds for the next two years to support the expansion of its nursing program, but an endowment that will last in perpetuity and provide for the program long after we are all gone."



Joshi family provides support for international students

Fairmont State University emeritus faculty member and advocate for international students Dr. Tulasi Joshi and his wife Marilyn have committed significant funds to the University to support recruitment of international students. Fairmont State University is recognizing their gift by naming its international student office the Tulasi and Marilyn Joshi Office for Educational Pathways for International Centers & Students. The dedication is scheduled for March 22, 2021.

"This gift from the Joshis will have a profound impact," Mirta M. Martin, president of Fairmont State University, said. "Tulasi and Marilyn understand how energizing and mutually beneficial having a robust international student presence on campus can be."

Joshi said he hopes his gift will provide the chance for other international students like him to seek the dream of education and opportunity and provide the University with a broader global perspective.

"We live in the global environment," Joshi said. "International students help us to be competitive in the global economy and help to enrich Fairmont State University, the community and our world understanding."

"I grew up high on the mountain side where the house of my childhood still stands and still does not have a heating system or running water," Joshi said. His family cooked over an open fire and under a thatched roof, and there was no indoor plumbing. "I played with rocks and sticks as toys."

After his 10th grade school year, Joshi had to travel to Kathmandu, the capital of Nepal, to take the 10th grade board examination called the SLC (School Leaving Certificate) examination. It took 15 days to reach Kathmandu, 11 days on foot and four days by train and bus.

Joshi remembers the difficulty he experienced as he struggled to receive an education. Students had to write on the back of used paper and often utilized wooden boards to learn the alphabet. He copied entire textbooks by hand because there weren't enough books for all students, and he studied at night by burning pine kindling for light.

Despite the hardships, Joshi and four other classmates became the first group from the Bajrang district to take the 10th grade board examination and pass in 1957. Joshi stayed in Kathmandu to further his education but struggled. A friend from his village helped him by providing him a place to live, and he managed without any funds.

"I would go to college after having the morning meal and come home in the evening. I would get hungry in the afternoon, but I did not have any money to buy a handful of soybeans, and I would drink some water," he said.

Eventually Joshi received a master's degree in geography from Tribhuvan University of Nepal in 1963, and for his academic excellence, the King of Nepal awarded him a gold medal with a grand ceremony attended by cabinet ministers, academicians, literary figures and other distinguished guests.

He came to the United States to the University of Hawaii in 1964 under the East West Center Scholarship Program. He went on to earn a master's from there in 1966 and earned his doctorate from the University of Pittsburgh in 1972.

It was in 1972 that a professor recommended him for a job at Fairmont State University and he visited the campus and liked it. He worked for over 42 years as a professor of geography at Fairmont State University and is a life member and former treasurer of the Association of Nepalis in the Americas (ANA).

He has been championing the education cause to empower deserving Nepali students thereby meeting the educational mission of ANA. He established scholarship programs for needy students of Bajhang for their higher education in Nepal, and for Nepali students for their undergraduate studies at Fairmont State University. He was instrumental in the establishment of the International Scholarship Program and the ANA-Tulasi & Marilyn Joshi Scholarship Program at Fairmont State. About 50 students have benefited from these scholarship programs.



Retired educators establish planned gift further supporting scholarships for education majors

In 2016, a Philippi, WV, native and his wife established an endowed scholarship supporting education majors at Fairmont State University. The couple has recently arranged a planned gift as part of their estate plan and additional cash funds to further support aspiring teachers through the existing Dr. Bob and Susan Hawkins Endowed Scholarship.



Dr. and Mrs. Hawkins, now living in Virginia Beach, VA, are retired educators who are committed to the education profession and the support of future teachers. They have a strong desire to help students who are devoted to a teaching career but unable to afford a college education.

"College is much more expensive today than when Susan and I were undergraduate students," said Dr. Hawkins. "I can't stand the thought of a person who could become such a fine classroom teacher as my wife being unable to get a degree because of finances."

A planned gift, either through a will, making the foundation a beneficiary of an IRA or other retirement account, ensures that funds will be available even after the donor has died, said Fairmont State Foundation President Julie R. Cryser.

"To give not only additional funding but to ensure that the fund grows after they pass is generous, thoughtful and strategic," Cryser said.

Dr. Hawkins, a Fairmont State University alumnus, began his career as an educator at Fairmont Senior High School before teaching at Hampton University and Virginia Wesleyan University.

He credits his success to his experience at Fairmont State. In particular, he remembers Dean George Turley, who was an advocate and mentor to Hawkins throughout his undergraduate experience. "I really did not realize what a quality education and preparation for life I received at Fairmont State until much later in life," he said.

Mrs. Hawkins' introduction to Fairmont State came through Dr. Hawkins and by attending his annual fraternity and Alumni Association events. She has been fascinated with the small and close-knit community that Fairmont State offers and the resulting connectedness on campus. For this reason, they chose to support Fairmont State with their initial endowed scholarship in 2016.

"By including Fairmont State in their estate planning, the Dr. Bob and Susan Hawkins Endowed Scholarship will inspire and support tomorrow's educators for years and years to come. The Hawkins' selfless generosity will have an immeasurable impact, as our students enter the education profession," said Mirta M. Martin, president of Fairmont State University.

An introduction to planned giving

Charitable Bequest

A bequest is a gift made through your will or trust and is the simplest way to leave a legacy at Fairmont State.

Charitable Gift Annuity

A gift annuity is a gift made through transferring cash or appreciated property to Fairmont State Foundation and receiving fixed payments in return.

Donor Advised Funds

If you have a Donor Advised Fund and wish to help us this year, you can make a gift from your DAF to support our work without affecting your personal financial security.

Please contact us or visit fsufoundation.giftlegacy.com for more information about these and other ways to give.

Contact us

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**FAIRMONT STATE
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Don Judy commercial flight scholarship established at Fairmont State

Long-time pilot and entrepreneur Don Judy has established a scholarship for Fairmont State University students seeking their commercial pilots license, the first of its kind at Fairmont State.

Judy, a sawmill owner who has been flying since the 1960s, retired in March after 30 years as a designated pilot examiner.

"I have examined the students at Fairmont for 20 years and have seen many students go on to become airline and corporate pilots," Judy said. "I have no immediate family, and I have always enjoyed helping young people to fly."

The Don Judy Commercial Flight Scholarship will assist Fairmont State University students in the Professional Flight Program in the School of Business & Aviation's Department of Aviation who are West Virginia residents seeking post instrument rating commercial flight training (commercial, multi-engine or CFI). Students must possess a 3.0 cumulative GPA or higher to be considered.

"I love how wide the wings of our Falcon Family stretch," said Mirta M. Martin, Fairmont State University President. "Our family is not only comprised of current students, staff, and alumni, but also our wider community and friends of the University."

The Professional Flight Option at Fairmont State University is one of three program options offered under the Aviation Center of Excellence. Students admitted to this selective program can gain a bachelor's in Aviation Technology with an emphasis in business in aviation while simultaneously completing the flight hours and training required to obtain their private, instrument and commercial ratings.

The main objective of the Professional Flight Option at Fairmont State University is to educate aspiring pilots to be well rounded and complete aviation professionals. Our goal is to graduate not just a pilot but an exceptional aviator and student overall.

"This scholarship will assist West Virginia students, and Mr. Judy's generosity will be felt for years to come," said Fairmont State Foundation President Julie Cryser. "This is the first scholarship for the program and provides students with the ability to focus on the program and becoming exceptional pilots."

Judy was born in Dry Fork, WV. He first experienced the wonder of aviation at the age of five in a Bonanza aircraft. His father maintained a grass strip on their farmland and his love for aviation thrived. After receiving his private pilot certificate in 1962, he continued receiving additional ratings through his hard work and dedication.

Judy's ratings range from Single Engine Land and Sea to Multi Engine Land and Sea, Rotorcraft, as well as Glider. He is a certified flight instructor on all the previously mentioned aircraft classifications and holds an Airframe and Powerplant (A&P) certificate with Inspection Authority (IA) designation. Serving as a Designated Pilot Examiner Mr. Judy has issued nearly 2000 FAA certifications to aspiring pilots before retiring in March 2020.

In addition to assisting others pursue their dreams in aviation, Judy restores aircraft, having overseen 10 complete aircraft rebuilds. He is also talented in the art of recovering fabric aircraft; a form in which few are currently proficient.

"The Donald Judy WV Aviation Scholarship aspires to carry on and manifest Mr. Judy's love for aviation well into future generations," said Joel Kirk, who leads the Fairmont State Aviation Program. "The intent of this scholarship is to provide assistance and inspiration to an aspiring, exceptional and promising flight student from and within his home state of West Virginia."

In 2017, Mr. Judy was a key player in helping the Fairmont State University restructure into the Aviation Center of Excellence. That year the "ACE" obtained its permanent 14 CFR part 141 status becoming the first in the State of West Virginia. This could not have happened without Mr. Judy's relentless effort to always be available to give FAA practical examinations in a timely manner.

"I have always said that what you give to others returns 10-fold to you," Judy said.



Fairmont Native honored with scholarship for students pursuing a graduate degree in healthcare management

Anne M. Schneider, M.D., has created the endowment in memory of her mother, honoring their shared interest in encouraging women to pursue medical and healthcare leadership careers. The Rosita Alvarez Schneider Scholarship for Healthcare Leadership will provide financial support for students enrolled in the Healthcare Management graduate program at Fairmont State University's School of Business and Aviation, with a preference for assisting female students.

Rosita Alvarez Schneider was born in Fairmont, WV, to Spanish immigrants. After completing her high school education at Fairmont Senior High School, Mrs. Schneider left the Mountain State to pursue a healthcare focused education in Chicago, studying radiology technology at Illinois Masonic Hospital. Upon completion of her training, Mrs. Schneider started her career at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit, MI. She served as an advocate for women seeking careers in healthcare until her passing in 2016.

The Master of Science in Healthcare Management program at Fairmont State is ideal for working professionals. In addition to being affordable, the program offers online coursework, mentorships, and a curriculum that emphasizes real-world application.

Bill and Mala Harker Endowed Scholarship established

Bill and Mala Harker have established the Bill & Mala Harker Endowed Scholarship, which will provide scholarships to a Fairmont State University student with first preference to African American students and second preference to students of color from Harrison County and Marion County with at least a 2.5 grade point average.

Bill Harker said the couple felt that their investment in West Virginia students might go farther in this state, as opposed to higher cost areas, and would potentially help people who are sometimes overlooked by other philanthropic activities.



SENIOR
CAMPAIGN
FAIRMONT STATE UNIVERSITY.

COME WALK WITH US!

The Class of 2021 at Fairmont State University is working to continue the senior class tradition, encouraging seniors to leave their mark on their home away from home. For our senior campaign, we welcome you to come "Walk with a Falcon" to help with the addition of a Falcon Park and Trail to our campus.

By establishing a green space on the Fairmont State's campus, we will improve creativity, problem solving and academic performance through nature-based learning. We encourage our admired alumni and community members to support student's education outside of the classroom while at the school on the hill. Please help us reach our goal and donate to this amazing opportunity.

www.fsufoundation.org/giving/2021

School of Nursing receives funding from Milan Puskar Foundation to provide care to local homeless population

The Fairmont State University School of Nursing received a \$40,000 grant from the Milan Puskar Foundation to support nursing students who will provide clinics and COVID-19 health and safety kits for the homeless population in Marion and Harrison Counties.

"One of the major directives that Milan Puskar wished to address through the Milan Puskar Foundation is the growing issue of homelessness in West Virginia," said Kyle Pratt, the foundation's President. "The grant to the Nursing Homeless Outreach Program will help provide basic healthcare needs to the homeless and education to nursing students and RNs on how to better understand the challenges that such individuals face in order to improve the healthcare they receive."

Fairmont State nursing students will provide services to homeless individuals in both Marion and Harrison Counties. Pratt said the Milan Puskar Foundation board members hope that the grant to Fairmont State University will result in significant personal connection and interaction with homeless individuals that improves their lives by helping to meet some basic healthcare needs.

"We also hope that the educational sessions for the nursing students and RNs that treat the homeless and provide awareness on COVID, including mask use and care, hand washing, and an array of other imperative information, will be valuable training that results in other meaningful and life-changing impacts," Pratt said.

Pratt said the goals that Fairmont State University presented were thorough, measurable, and the Milan

Puskar Foundation believes that this grant will assist the University in improving the lives of homeless individuals in the North Central West Virginia region.

"We are grateful for the opportunity to provide our students with a comprehensive nursing education while assisting those in need within our local communities," said Laura Clayton, Fairmont State School of Nursing Dean. "This project will allow us to further serve our mission to improve the health of West Virginia and the global community through a commitment to excellence and innovation in teaching, scholarship and service."

The Milan Puskar Foundation's mission is to improve the quality of life in West Virginia. This grant not only provides funding for the basic healthcare needs of the homeless in the region but also extends first-hand learning experience to existing and future healthcare workers to further improve such care.

The Milan Puskar Foundation believes this grant encapsulates the legacy of a man who worked tirelessly throughout his life to enrich the lives of countless individuals, including the homeless.

"Experiential learning is the hallmark of a Fairmont State education," Mirta M. Martin, president of Fairmont State University, said. "This generous gift will not only give our students real-world opportunities to apply classroom knowledge, but it also gives them the chance to do what Fairmont State does best: Change lives. With the help of this grant, the Nursing Homeless Outreach Program will have an immeasurable impact on the lives of so many in our community."

Campus highlights

2020 Faculty Merit Foundation award finalist: Associate Professor of Special Education, Dr. Julie Reneau, has been selected as one of the five finalists for the Faculty Merit Foundation 2020 West Virginia Professor of the Year Award.

2020 WVMTA Teacher of the Year: The West Virginia Music Teachers Association (WVMTA) has awarded Assistant Professor of Music, John Morrison, the 2020 WVMTA Teacher of the Year Award.

Distinguished civil engineering award: The West Virginia Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) has awarded Professor Tabitha Lafferre E.I., the 2020 WV Young Civil Engineer of the Year Award.

New Programs: The College of Science and Technology has launched two new programs. A dual Bachelor of Science Degree in Surveying and Geomatics Engineering Technology will include coursework in technology, engineering, natural and social sciences, and humanities. The Master of Science Degree in Engineering Management (MSET) is an online graduate program designed to provide a blend of advanced engineering concepts and strategies.

Fairmont State University exceeds fundraising goal on Day of Giving

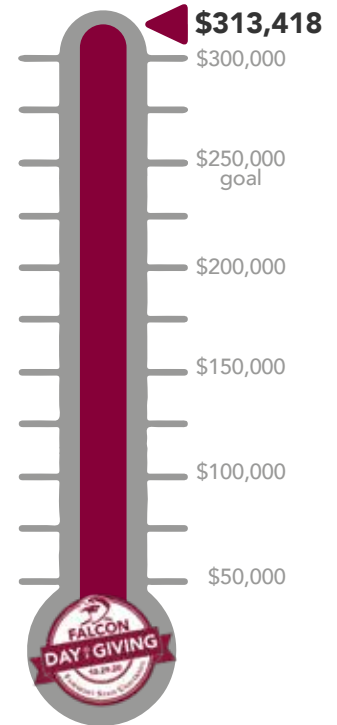
The second annual Falcon Day of Giving took place on October 29, with a single-day fundraising goal of \$250,000. Alumni and friends contributed more than \$300,000 during this 24-hour period, exceeding the goal by more than \$50,000.

More than 600 donors provided funds for everything from athletic scholarships to support for student programs and university projects. Athletics raised more than \$140,000, with the men's and women's basketball teams leading the effort at nearly \$29,000 and \$24,000, respectively.

Donors gave more than \$89,000 to support scholarships, both academic (\$44,000) and athletic (\$18,000), while schools and colleges earned nearly \$35,000 to support discretionary funds that can be utilized for scholarships, faculty support or projects.

Matches and challenges secured earlier in the year and made by alumni and friends helped to spur giving. A number of donors who contributed in 2019 generously increased their giving by nearly \$50,000 for the 2020 Falcon Day of Giving.

Falcon Day of Giving provides funding for students and the University, but it also serves to raise awareness about Fairmont State University and funding opportunities. People from as far away as Louisiana and California were sharing social media posts about the Day of Giving and encouraging friends, family and peers to support Fairmont State University.



Folklife Center receives grant for K-12 education initiative

The Frank and Jane Gabor West Virginia Folklife Center has received a grant of \$7,500 from the Daywood Foundation in support of Ruth Ann Musick's Trunk of Tales, a Fairmont State University project to promote folklore and West Virginia cultural heritage studies in K-12 public schools in the state.

Funds will be used to assemble four teacher resource trunks that include copies of Ruth Ann Musick's book, *The Telltale Lilac Bush and Other West Virginia Ghost Stories*. Each trunk will also include materials and lesson plans for educators, and digital recorders that students can use to collect stories of folklore and heritage from their own families.

Three of the trunks will be donated to school systems in West Virginia's Barbour, Greenbrier and Kanawha counties as a pilot program. The fourth trunk will remain with the Folklife Center on the campus of Fairmont State University.

Fairmont State receives support for waterway rehabilitation

Dominion Energy has awarded Fairmont State University a grant of \$25,000 for the ongoing restoration and preservation of Hickman Run Stream in Marion County, WV. This grant was provided through the Environmental Education and Stewardship Grant program offered by Dominion Energy and funds will be used to establish a monitoring station with equipment that measures water and environmental conditions at Hickman Run Stream.

When permanently installed, the new water monitoring equipment will provide continuous monitoring of the stream's water quality and provide additional data on rainfall, air temperature, wind speed and other important information that improves analysis of stream health.

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