For a brighter future
University of Denver
Report of Philanthropy
2020–2021
A Word from the Chancellor

Building the future – whether for an individual or a community – requires intentionality, creativity, the right partnerships and hope. At the University of Denver, these elements form a dynamic conversation about who we want to be in the years to come. Together we create opportunities for our students to pursue the education that will open the doors to outstanding careers. We nurture their holistic development throughout their time at DU, empowering them to graduate and face the world with a greater understanding of their talents and trajectories. We innovate across campus, collaborating and building on knowledge that heightens our students’ educational experience and makes a tangible impact on the communities around us.

Your partnership makes all of this possible. Personal philanthropy fuels the creativity and innovation that is the hallmark of our university. Gifts provide scholarships that open the doors to DU for many students who will become the leaders of communities large and small, near and far. Because of the inspiration and possibility that your generosity provides, together we will create a brighter future.

Thank you for investing in our students and in the future of DU. I hope you enjoy this report, and I look forward to the ways that our partnership will continue to grow.

Sincerely,

Jeremy Haefner
Chancellor

Contents

Scholarships .............................................................. 2
Transforming Student Lives .................................. 3
Donors Making a Difference .......................... 10
Student Experience across Campus ........... 20
Excellence in Innovation ................................. 28

Giving at DU
FY2021 by the numbers
Fiscal Year 2021, July 1, 2020–June 30, 2021

$87,748,429 total dollars raised
14,025 total unique donors
Donors counted by primary affiliation

1% foundations
41% alumni
40% friends
13% parents
2% corporations
3% other orgs

$14,775,363 supported scholarships
$1,740,313 supported faculty
$245,050 funded research

Number of gifts under $1,000 13,057
Number of new endowments created 34
Number of new scholarships created 39
Number of donor-funded scholars 1,505

Crimson & Gold Society donors in 2020 2,148
Spire Society donors 1,144
Pioneer Legacy Society donors 1,206

Our generous society members featured in this publication will be recognized throughout.
Scholarships

A centerpiece of the DU experience for many students, scholarships help create a diverse and vibrant student body. For some students, scholarships open the door to a college experience that otherwise may have been unattainable. For others, scholarships make possible a graduate degree that can lead to a new career. Scholarships also provide students the freedom to pursue a career field where their passion meets their intellect. For many, they offer the freedom to focus on academic and social experiences rather spending non-classroom time at a job. Scholarships make the DU student experience a reality for individuals across geographic and socioeconomic lines, empowering them to build lives and careers of meaning.

In the 2020-2021 academic year, 89.3% of the student body received financial aid.

$6,414 is the average need gap for undergraduate students.

A DU Journey Made Possible through Scholarships

A study abroad experience in Indonesia. Co-founding a club for undergraduate women in business. An academic program that opened doors for her professional journey. The touchstone moments of Lexi Girard’s University of Denver education — and the opportunity to attend DU in the first place — happened because of scholarships.

“Without scholarships, I couldn’t have even attended DU,” says Girard, a recent graduate of the dual-degree bachelor’s and master’s of accounting program at the Daniels College of Business. “I applied to other schools with similar cost as DU, but it was the scholarships that made it possible for me to come here,” she says. Even with financial assistance, Girard still had to work part-time.

Then, she received additional scholarships that gave her more freedom to spend time on extracurricular ventures. She threw herself into her work with the Undergraduate Women in Business club, a group she co-founded. The club has strong support from Daniels professors in addition to philanthropic backing.

“The financial support from donors is vital,” Girard says. “Like during 1Day4DU, when donors give to student organizations — that’s how we can have big events that advance our mission and help students.”

The accounting program in the Daniels College of Business has challenged Girard academically and helped her with employment opportunities. Through her connections in the accounting program, the Beta Alpha Psi accounting fraternity and the Daniels career office, Girard secured three internships as well as a job at Ernst & Young.

“DU students come out of the program extremely disciplined, you can see the difference between DU students and those from other schools,” Girard says. “The accounting program is known to be challenging, but it’s because they want us to do well. And we are ready for our internships because of that.”

In reflecting on her time at DU, Girard reiterates the ways scholarships open doors for her and other students. Her ability to stay at DU, particularly earning a master’s degree in addition to her bachelor’s, is closely aligned with the opportunities afforded by scholarships.

“The longer I’ve been here, the more I see students like me, working multiple jobs to be able to afford groceries and to pay rent,” she says. “So many students are independent financially, and they’re working so hard. At DU, that hard work is rewarded, especially with scholarships.”

Transforming Student Lives

The accounting program in the Daniels College of Business has challenged Girard academically and helped her with employment opportunities. Through her connections in the accounting program, the Beta Alpha Psi accounting fraternity and the Daniels career office, Girard secured three internships as well as a job at Ernst & Young.
An Enduring Link to DU

When it came time for Denver native Makiyah Hainesworth to make her college decision, she knew DU was her top choice.

As a rising high school junior, Hainesworth attended the University of Denver’s “Summer Link to College,” a five-day residential program where students get a taste of college life by staying in a campus residence hall, attending classes taught by DU professors and participating in workshops that encourage them to successfully finish high school. The program also prepares participants for the college application process and follows up with them until they graduate from high school.

“I fell in love with the campus, and everyone made me feel like they were glad to have me there,” she says.

Hainesworth was particularly drawn to DU’s rigorous academics — something she felt she didn’t always get in high school. She also loved the wealth of resources available to students — not only academic, but also spiritual and mental health resources.

While Hainesworth knew DU was her top choice after attending Summer Link, she says scholarships played a vital role in allowing her to say “yes” to her dream school.

Hainesworth says the scholarships she received, including the Crimson & Gold Scholarship, DU Book Scholarship, DU Pathways Scholarship, Seth and Barbara Franzman Pathways Endowed Scholarship Fund, VIP Scholarship and DU Education Grant, enabled her to enroll in DU knowing that finances wouldn’t be a barrier to her graduating. They also allowed her to immerse herself in the DU community instead of spending all her extracurricular time working, she says.

One of her most memorable experiences at DU outside of the classroom was participating and winning second place in the 2018 Diversity and Business Ethics Case Competition, where teams from business schools across Colorado competed in a business case challenge focused on diversity and ethics.

To the donors who helped make her DU education possible, Hainesworth says, “It is reaffirming to know there are donors willing to invest in my future aspirations. Thanks to your support, I am able to continue my family’s legacy of obtaining a higher education. With your help, I am one step closer to fulfilling my aspirations.”

From Daunting Application Process to DU Success Story: First-Generation Student Shines

Growing up in the small town of Delta, Colorado, University of Denver third-year student Sameha Haque was overwhelmed by the college application process. “The other applicants seemed so sure about the process. I didn’t want to seem like I didn’t know what I was doing. The whole journey of trying to figure things out for myself was really daunting,” says the first-generation student.

Now, with the college application process well behind her, Haque says she is glad she landed at DU.

While she enrolled at DU intending to study molecular biology and pursue medical school after graduation, Haque recently decided to double major in biology and political science with a minor in sociology and writing practices.

Haque says her love of writing, which her time at DU has bolstered, played a major role in her decision to switch fields of study.

She recently won an award for an essay on colorism (prejudice against someone with a darker skin tone) — something Haque has personally experienced as the daughter of Bangladeshi immigrants growing up in a predominantly white town. Her essay will be published in WRT Large, a DU publication that showcases exemplary academic writing across disciplines.

While Haque says that being a person of color at DU has been challenging at times, she also says experiences like the Equity in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (E-STEM) program have given her the chance to find community, bond with people with similar backgrounds and discover new opportunities. E-STEM creates pathways to academic success for students matriculating into DU from historically underrepresented groups in the STEM fields.

“Meeting STEM students with similar backgrounds to my own really helped me see that I wasn’t alone in my experiences,” she says.

Haque says donors made her DU education possible. As a recipient of a Chancellor’s Scholarship and the Elston Endowed Work-Study Scholarship Fund, she says the cost for her to attend DU was similar to that of a public institution. Being able to choose DU with its smaller class sizes and wealth of opportunities, is something for which she is truly grateful.

“It feels really great to know that my parents don’t have to worry about my tuition. Going to another college would have been an entirely different experience,” she says.

To past and future donors, Haque says she would like to thank them for all the opportunities they have made possible for her and other DU students. When donors give, she says, “they are changing a student’s life.”
The Ripple Effect of “Gifting Someone Choice”

When Scott Rosenbach (JD ’20) began his college career, he was an aspiring architect. “I quickly realized I wasn’t going to be the next Frank Lloyd Wright,” Rosenbach says. A formative experience in a first-year English class spurred Rosenbach to switch his architecture major to English. With a knack for pinpointing evidence to support his arguments, along with an internship at a law firm, he knew his career would be in law.

When it was time to choose a law school, Rosenbach had plenty of choices. Scholarships — like the Arthur B. Hayutin Endowed and the Henry G. Frankel Endowed Memorial scholarships that Rosenbach was awarded — played an important role in his decision to attend the Sturm College of Law at DU, he says. “I knew that scholarships would allow me to pursue my passions. I could choose opportunities that I wouldn’t be able to pursue if my student loans were exorbitant,” Rosenbach says. “Student loan debt stifles choice. It’s a common theme in law school that people dash their dreams in favor of a higher-paying job. No one should have to sideline their dreams because of student loan debt.”

Today, he is working in his dream field as a real estate attorney at Husch Blackwell. With over 700 attorneys, it’s a large firm — a legal setting that historically hasn’t been a common theme for a law student with an openly gay male identity. Rosenbach says his scholarships played a critical role in putting him in a position to give back. “We all know the power of money. Giving to scholarship funds is so much more than that. It’s the power of gifting someone choice. It’s opening up an opportunity for someone to pursue their passions and contribute to the community in a way that they may not have been able to otherwise. It has a ripple effect,” he says.

As an openly gay man, Rosenbach said one of his key career goals is “to serve as a model to future diverse law students that it is possible to overcome barriers that have traditionally prevented people like me from reaching this point. Barriers like feeling you don’t belong in a certain setting or that your perspective isn’t valued,” he says.

Lifting others up, like Rosenbach says so many of his mentors at DU did for him, is an important part of his mission as an attorney.

As an emergent digital practices major and computer science minor at DU, Foster is on his way to making that dream a reality.

Sterling Foster dreams of making video games for a living. “Video games have always been my passion for as long as I can remember,” he says.

As an emergent digital practices major and computer science minor at DU. Foster is active in several groups. “Including the Equity in Science, Technology, Engineering, Math, or ‘E-STEM,’ program, a grant-funded initiative that creates pathways to academic success for students from historically underrepresented groups in science, math, and engineering fields.”

“I appreciate that DU prioritizes diversity inside and outside of academics,” he says.

Foster said this unique program — a mix of the study of art, design, media, culture, and technology — has allowed him to further consider the value of games beyond fun. “I love the narrative of games and putting myself in the characters’ shoes. I believe games have the potential to teach and get players thinking about social issues,” he says.

Outside of the classroom, Foster is active in several groups. “Including the Equity in Science, Technology, Engineering, or ‘E-STEM,’ program, a grant-funded initiative that creates pathways to academic success for students from historically underrepresented groups in science, math, and engineering fields.”

“For the past three years, Foster has volunteered with DU’s Black Male Initiative Summit — a program for 8th through 12th grade Black male students that promotes leadership, academic achievement with an emphasis on graduating from high school and attending a post-secondary institution and community involvement while developing Black male identity.”

When it came time for Megan Lindenmeyer to choose a college, it was important that whatever school she attended offered both psychology and criminology majors.

Lindenmeyer was captivated by a psychology course she took at a local community college while in high school. She found the part of the course that delved into psychopathology particularly fascinating.

Since that class, Lindenmeyer has aspired to serve some of society’s most vulnerable members: individuals who are or have been incarcerated and are suffering from severe and persistent mental health issues.

Lindenmeyer graduated from the University of Denver in June with a double major in psychology and criminology. In the fall, she started graduate school to become a clinical psychologist — one step closer to reaching a goal she set for herself even before she set foot on DU’s campus.

“Last summer, thanks to a Career and Professional Development Award that was made possible through gifts from many donors, Lindenmeyer took an unpaid internship with a local drug court, where she got to observe how judges, treatment providers and others worked with individuals with substance use disorders in the justice system.”

Lindenmeyer says the internship and her whole DU experience, including a formative quarter abroad in New Zealand, would never have been possible without the scholarships she was awarded.

The Chancellor Scholarship, a merit-based scholarship that covers the entire cost of tuition for all four years of undergraduate study and provides recipients with a grant to live on campus their first two years, played a key role in Lindenmeyer’s decision and ability to attend DU.

“Without scholarships, my whole DU experience wouldn’t have been possible,” Lindenmeyer says. “I know that’s the case for a lot of students here.”

Turning a Long-Held Passion into a Future Career
When Andy Fox, a 2021 PhD graduate in education at the University of Denver, defended his dissertation, he had some help. Citizens of Sheridan, Colorado, shared photographs and read poems they had co-constructed with Fox, both key components of Fox’s multiyear ethnography study of Sheridan.

White chronic ethnographic research is typically centered on observation and interviewing. Fox says asking residents to photograph and write about their lives positioned them as experts instead of research subjects. Although Sheridan is only five miles from DU’s campus, Fox says it has some of the worst educational opportunities and outcomes not only in Colorado, but nationwide.

“My dissertation was a marriage of my educational interests and my desire to serve people,” he says.

Fox’s desire to serve has been a constant in his adult life, whether tutoring middle schoolers during his undergraduate studies or doing fieldwork in Ghana while earning his master’s in public health. His passion for research ultimately led him to the PhD program at DU’s Morgridge College of Education.

Fox was awarded two scholarships, the Morgridge Fellows Program for Engaged Learning and the Metzlzer Scholarship. But he says making it possible for him to continue his education at DU and delve into something he had become passionate about during his public health studies—problem-based learning.

During his time at DU, Fox has studied how an entire school district in Colorado is using problem-based learning to teach a variety of subjects in grades K-12.

Today, Fox serves as director of research and evaluation for MindSpark, a nonprofit that focuses on providing extraordinary professional development opportunities for educators.

Throughout his time at DU, Fox says he has come to understand that his and others’ research can have ripple effects that traverse geographic boundaries.

Solving Problems with Grit and Technology

When Rost Upchurch moved to Colorado, she decided that getting an education would be her primary goal. She says earning a degree would give her far more professional options—and the accompanying financial security—than her family had ever known.

Upchurch grew up in a northern Illinois community where she says crime and poverty were commonplace. Her mother struggled with mental illness, and her father worked hard to pay the bills. But often, that wasn’t enough. After her parents lost their home in the 2008 financial crisis, Upchurch got a job to help support the family. Yet having seen many family members constrained in their job options due to limited advanced education, she knew that earning a college degree would be key to a better way of life.

With the support of scholarships, like the Boundless Opportunity Scholarship and the Viola Vestal Coulter Foundation Scholarship, Upchurch graduated from the University of Denver in June, completing her bachelor’s in information technology through University College. A member of Alpha Sigma Lambda National Honor Society, she is also working to earn her master’s in information and communications technology (ICT) with focus in project management, as well as a certificate for ICT database design and administration. She will finish both her master’s degree and certificate in December 2022.

Ola Alsaadi
An Iraqi immigrant who is working toward her bachelor’s in mechanical engineering and her master’s in biomedical engineering, with the goal of helping war victims like her father who have lost limbs in the war.

Solving Problems with Grit and Technology

When Rost Upchurch moved to Colorado, she decided that getting an education would be her primary goal. She says earning a degree would give her far more professional options—and the accompanying financial security—than her family had ever known.

Upchurch grew up in a northern Illinois community where she says crime and poverty were commonplace. Her mother struggled with mental illness, and her father worked hard to pay the bills. But often, that wasn’t enough. After her parents lost their home in the 2008 financial crisis, Upchurch got a job to help support the family. Yet having seen many family members constrained in their job options due to limited advanced education, she knew that earning a college degree would be key to a better way of life.

With the support of scholarships, like the Boundless Opportunity Scholarship and the Viola Vestal Coulter Foundation Scholarship, Upchurch graduated from the University of Denver in June, completing her bachelor’s in information technology through University College. A member of Alpha Sigma Lambda National Honor Society, she is also working to earn her master’s in information and communications technology (ICT) with focus in project management, as well as a certificate for ICT database design and administration. She will finish both her master’s degree and certificate in December 2022.

Ola Alsaadi
An Iraqi immigrant who is working toward her bachelor’s in mechanical engineering and her master’s in biomedical engineering, with the goal of helping war victims like her father who have lost limbs in the war.

Solving Problems with Grit and Technology

When Rost Upchurch moved to Colorado, she decided that getting an education would be her primary goal. She says earning a degree would give her far more professional options—and the accompanying financial security—than her family had ever known.

Upchurch grew up in a northern Illinois community where she says crime and poverty were commonplace. Her mother struggled with mental illness, and her father worked hard to pay the bills. But often, that wasn’t enough. After her parents lost their home in the 2008 financial crisis, Upchurch got a job to help support the family. Yet having seen many family members constrained in their job options due to limited advanced education, she knew that earning a college degree would be key to a better way of life.

With the support of scholarships, like the Boundless Opportunity Scholarship and the Viola Vestal Coulter Foundation Scholarship, Upchurch graduated from the University of Denver in June, completing her bachelor’s in information technology through University College. A member of Alpha Sigma Lambda National Honor Society, she is also working to earn her master’s in information and communications technology (ICT) with focus in project management, as well as a certificate for ICT database design and administration. She will finish both her master’s degree and certificate in December 2022.

Ola Alsaadi
An Iraqi immigrant who is working toward her bachelor’s in mechanical engineering and her master’s in biomedical engineering, with the goal of helping war victims like her father who have lost limbs in the war.

Solving Problems with Grit and Technology

When Rost Upchurch moved to Colorado, she decided that getting an education would be her primary goal. She says earning a degree would give her far more professional options—and the accompanying financial security—than her family had ever known.

Upchurch grew up in a northern Illinois community where she says crime and poverty were commonplace. Her mother struggled with mental illness, and her father worked hard to pay the bills. But often, that wasn’t enough. After her parents lost their home in the 2008 financial crisis, Upchurch got a job to help support the family. Yet having seen many family members constrained in their job options due to limited advanced education, she knew that earning a college degree would be key to a better way of life.

With the support of scholarships, like the Boundless Opportunity Scholarship and the Viola Vestal Coulter Foundation Scholarship, Upchurch graduated from the University of Denver in June, completing her bachelor’s in information technology through University College. A member of Alpha Sigma Lambda National Honor Society, she is also working to earn her master’s in information and communications technology (ICT) with focus in project management, as well as a certificate for ICT database design and administration. She will finish both her master’s degree and certificate in December 2022.

Ola Alsaadi
An Iraqi immigrant who is working toward her bachelor’s in mechanical engineering and her master’s in biomedical engineering, with the goal of helping war victims like her father who have lost limbs in the war.

Solving Problems with Grit and Technology

When Rost Upchurch moved to Colorado, she decided that getting an education would be her primary goal. She says earning a degree would give her far more professional options—and the accompanying financial security—than her family had ever known.

Upchurch grew up in a northern Illinois community where she says crime and poverty were commonplace. Her mother struggled with mental illness, and her father worked hard to pay the bills. But often, that wasn’t enough. After her parents lost their home in the 2008 financial crisis, Upchurch got a job to help support the family. Yet having seen many family members constrained in their job options due to limited advanced education, she knew that earning a college degree would be key to a better way of life.

With the support of scholarships, like the Boundless Opportunity Scholarship and the Viola Vestal Coulter Foundation Scholarship, Upchurch graduated from the University of Denver in June, completing her bachelor’s in information technology through University College. A member of Alpha Sigma Lambda National Honor Society, she is also working to earn her master’s in information and communications technology (ICT) with focus in project management, as well as a certificate for ICT database design and administration. She will finish both her master’s degree and certificate in December 2022.

Ola Alsaadi
An Iraqi immigrant who is working toward her bachelor’s in mechanical engineering and her master’s in biomedical engineering, with the goal of helping war victims like her father who have lost limbs in the war.

Solving Problems with Grit and Technology

When Rost Upchurch moved to Colorado, she decided that getting an education would be her primary goal. She says earning a degree would give her far more professional options—and the accompanying financial security—than her family had ever known.

Upchurch grew up in a northern Illinois community where she says crime and poverty were commonplace. Her mother struggled with mental illness, and her father worked hard to pay the bills. But often, that wasn’t enough. After her parents lost their home in the 2008 financial crisis, Upchurch got a job to help support the family. Yet having seen many family members constrained in their job options due to limited advanced education, she knew that earning a college degree would be key to a better way of life.

With the support of scholarships, like the Boundless Opportunity Scholarship and the Viola Vestal Coulter Foundation Scholarship, Upchurch graduated from the University of Denver in June, completing her bachelor’s in information technology through University College. A member of Alpha Sigma Lambda National Honor Society, she is also working to earn her master’s in information and communications technology (ICT) with focus in project management, as well as a certificate for ICT database design and administration. She will finish both her master’s degree and certificate in December 2022.

Ola Alsaadi
An Iraqi immigrant who is working toward her bachelor’s in mechanical engineering and her master’s in biomedical engineering, with the goal of helping war victims like her father who have lost limbs in the war.

Solving Problems with Grit and Technology

When Rost Upchurch moved to Colorado, she decided that getting an education would be her primary goal. She says earning a degree would give her far more professional options—and the accompanying financial security—than her family had ever known.

Upchurch grew up in a northern Illinois community where she says crime and poverty were commonplace. Her mother struggled with mental illness, and her father worked hard to pay the bills. But often, that wasn’t enough. After her parents lost their home in the 2008 financial crisis, Upchurch got a job to help support the family. Yet having seen many family members constrained in their job options due to limited advanced education, she knew that earning a college degree would be key to a better way of life.

With the support of scholarships, like the Boundless Opportunity Scholarship and the Viola Vestal Coulter Foundation Scholarship, Upchurch graduated from the University of Denver in June, completing her bachelor’s in information technology through University College. A member of Alpha Sigma Lambda National Honor Society, she is also working to earn her master’s in information and communications technology (ICT) with focus in project management, as well as a certificate for ICT database design and administration. She will finish both her master’s degree and certificate in December 2022.
Donors Making a Difference

PB and K Family Foundation Scholarships Encourage Transformation

Since 2013, the PB and K Family Foundation has provided scholarship support for Korbel School graduate students with financial need pursuing degrees in international development. The Foundation contributes to a fund that maximizes the individual scholarship amount and number of recipients each year. The Foundation’s goal is to encourage transformation and high impact in the organizations they support.

President of the Foundation Debra Perry noted: “The scholarship is targeted on building more capacity in the international development field by making it possible for high-potential candidates to pursue a career in the nonprofit sector and work toward making the world a better place.”

PB and K Family Foundation scholarships have been awarded to 18 grateful scholars over the last eight years, each of whom is helping to improve the world through their work with organizations all over the world.

Fishers Establish Karen Riley Endowed Scholarship

In honor of Karen Riley upon her departure as dean of the University of Denver’s Morgridge College of Education, Don and Sue Fisher made a $2.5 million gift to DU to establish a scholarship fund. The Karen Riley Endowed Scholarship will support master’s students at Morgridge who are committed to teaching young children, and it carries on the Fishers’ long-standing commitment to early childhood education.

“We hope this scholarship can help teachers financially, particularly those who have the deepest need, as they train to teach the youngest children in our society,” says Don Fisher. “Those teachers will go on to make a great difference. We are all better off when more children can receive a quality education.”

Don and Sue Fisher are longtime generous friends of DU. They established the Fisher Early Learning Center on DU’s campus in 2000. Recognizing the importance of providing a high-quality education to all children — particularly those from less privileged backgrounds — the Fishers also established a scholarship for young students whose families otherwise could not afford tuition. The impact of that initiative has echoed throughout the Fisher Early Learning Center.

Donates Riley is a member of the C&G Society and the Spire Society.

Scholarships change people’s lives, and for the Fishers to make such a generous commitment to DU in my honor is overwhelming and humbling,” says Riley. “This scholarship will change the lives of the students who study here — it will allow their dreams to come true — and in turn, those teachers will change the lives of the young learners whom they teach.”

Especially with all of the devastating events that have taken place over the past year in the pandemic, it is so uplifting to know that there are people who believe in me and who are supporting my journey. I am so thankful and can’t wait to use everything I have learned at Korbel to start my career and have an impact that will help others, just as you helped me.

— Sophia Mellitas, MA, ’21, International Development

“Bringing children in from diverse backgrounds changed the lives of everyone involved,” says Don Fisher, “not just those students, but the faculty who taught them, as well as the other students. These teachers are not just teaching; they are helping our whole society and eliminating barriers to education. It’s had a positive effect on everyone involved.”

The Fishers’ recent gift brings their generosity full circle, supporting educators as they prepare for careers across the community and state. This investment will help teachers bring the excellence they learned at Morgridge into the community for young children everywhere.

Don and Sue Fisher are members of the C&G Society, the Spire Society and the Pioneer Legacy Society.
Honoring a Legacy by Supporting Students

"After serving his country in the military in the Korean War, my father was a trailblazer in the field of law, overcoming barriers and making a tremendous impact. One of the best ways I can honor his legacy is by giving opportunity to future law students," says Lori Montano.

Her father, Joe Montano, a graduate of the University of Denver’s Sturm College of Law, later became the first Hispanic partner of a major law firm in Colorado. Her recent gift to the Sturm College of Law provides scholarships to students from diverse backgrounds, helping to ensure that future generations of lawyers can follow in her father’s footsteps.

Born in 1928 in the tiny farming town of Lasausas in the San Luis Valley, Joe Montano was a fourth-generation Coloradan who could trace his family’s North American heritage back to 1598. After graduating second in his class from DU’s law school in 1953, he had a decades-long career of significant accomplishments in both public service and private practice.

From serving as the assistant attorney general’s office to becoming the first Hispanic partner of a major law firm in Colorado, Joe led the negotiations on behalf of the State of Colorado for the creation of the I-25 and I-70 corridors and the Eisenhower Tunnel. Additionally, he represented private landowners in some of the largest public work projects in Colorado history. He was a member of the prestigious American College of Trial Lawyers, and Sturm College of Law awarded him its highest alumni honor, the Outstanding Alumni Award, at the annual DU Law Stars awards dinner in 2002.

In commemoration of his professional achievements and contributions to the firm, partners at Faegre Baker Daniels established the Faegre Baker Daniels/Joe Montano Endowed Scholarship Fund in 2006. Lori Montano’s gift will further support that fund, helping students at the Sturm College of Law with tuition costs. The Montano family legacy continues through their support of students at Sturm College of Law and in the work of many professionals whom Joe mentored along the way.

As a first-generation law student and immigrant, I was very hesitant to embark on the uncharted trek up the mountain of law school,” says Liliana Vior, JD candidate and president of the Latinx Law Student Association. “I worried if the financial burden I would shoulder would fall solely on my family and me. The Faegre Baker Daniels/Joe Montano Endowed Scholarship is that extra hand of support for my family who, after 20 years of moving to the United States, is continuing to establish roots and create a better life. In turn, I am inspired by the Montano family to help another family establish strong financial roots and a better life as soon as I am able. I am confident the family’s contributions will continue to reverberate in the lives — and the family’s lives — of those benefitted throughout time. From one immigrant to another, one Latinx individual to another, hand in hand, together we climb.”

Gift from Robert and Judi Newman Benefits Music Students

Fall 2021 brought a special opportunity to graduate students at the Lamont School of Music, thanks to the generosity of Robert and Judi Newman, longtime friends of the University of Denver.

The Newmans recently made a gift to Lamont that funds a two-year fellowship for master’s of music students in performance or conducting. Combined with a tuition waiver, this award will cover students’ full cost of attendance. The fellowship also provides encouragement for more highly qualified students to apply to Lamont, strengthening the school’s recruiting efforts. The Newmans first started the Newman Graduate Fellowship in 2011 to support Lamont students, and their generosity will continue to have a lasting effect on Lamont’s students and its program.

Bob and Judi Newman are members of the C&G Society and the Spire Society.
As our community continues to bounce back from the human and economic impacts of the past year, the University of Denver global network of alumni, students, faculty, staff, parents, families and friends united on May 19 to show their support for the University during 1Day4DU. An amazing 3,436 donors contributed $1,000,375 to mission-critical priorities during DU’s seventh annual day of giving.

“It’s always incredible to watch how the entire University of Denver community comes together in support of our students,” says Chancellor Jeremy Haefner. “All of the 1Day4DU projects support the University’s mission and vision and will ultimately have a tremendous impact on our students’ educational experience.”

This year’s funding opportunities featured more than a dozen new projects with a focus on diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives. Many of these programs had strong support from donors — including the Learning Effectiveness Program, Black Women LEAD, DU PRIDE, E-STEM and the Clothing Account for Students in Hospitality — more than doubling their goal for the day of giving.

Recognizing the continued hardships that many DU students are facing because of the global pandemic, both the Student Assistance Fund (SAF) and Denver Law Fund more than doubled their goals and together received over $50,000 from more than 250 donors. The SAF was launched by DU students several years ago to help keep their peers on track for academic success by providing emergency funding to address unforeseen financial hardships. The Denver Law Fund, which raised funds totaling three times its 1Day4DU goal, also addresses financial hardships experienced by law students and helps students who need funding for externships and costs associated with professional licensure.

This 1Day4DU demonstrated the tremendous power of community as so many of our alumni and friends came together to support the priorities of the University,” said Valerie Otten, senior vice chancellor for Advancement. “Their generosity will have a significant impact on the lives of our students and underscores our mission to serve the public good.”

DU Community Makes a Difference During 1Day4DU

Marion J. Crean Burns School Collaboratory in Daniels College of Business.
This mini-campaign honoring beloved faculty member emeritus Mike Crean raised over $20,000

Maclyn Clouse Signature Student Experience Fund: $89,000+
Donor Leadership program raised over $20,000

Scholarships $30K

CASH Project in Daniels College of Business. This clothing account for hospitality students raised over $20,000

Majority of gifts were in the $5–$50 range showing broad commitment of all sizes to support the DU community

12 first-time projects, 7 of which were centered around DEI imperatives

DU $10,000 PRIDE Their first-ever 1Day4DU project

14 15

38 crowdfunding projects Including scholarships, Student Assistance Fund, internships and student organizations

- Total donors and dollars raised surpassed last year’s numbers and this year’s goals
- Donors were from every state and many countries

This mini-campaign honoring beloved faculty member emeritus Mike Crean raised over
**Alumnus Imran Khan Creates Opportunity through Scholarship Gift**

"Investing in scholarships is investing in the future," says Imran Khan (BSBA ’00), of his recent $1.25 million gift to the University of Denver to support student scholarships.

Khan, a DU alum and CEO of Verishop, made the transformational gift because of the lasting impact that scholarships have on students and on the University of Denver itself. "Scholarships meet students' current financial need, giving them opportunities to receive a first-class education and jump-start their careers," Khan says. "They also enrich the college experience for all DU students, allowing the University to recruit the best and brightest from a talented and diverse pool of students." Khan added that the need for such opportunities is particularly strong now with the COVID-19 pandemic and the socioeconomic challenges it has brought.

This gift extends Khan’s significant involvement with the University. Over the past several years, he has been honored as a distinguished alumnus at Alumni Weekend, participated in Denver Startup Week and spoke at graduate commencement ceremonies, where he received his honorary doctorate from DU.

After college, Khan built a career in finance, becoming one of the youngest JPMorgan managing directors at the age of 29. He later moved to Credit Suisse’s Internet banking franchise, where he worked on some of the biggest tech IPOs. In 2014, he led the Alibaba Group’s IPO, the largest share sale ever. He later became the chief strategy officer of Snap Inc., the parent company of the messaging app Snapchat.

Most recently, Khan and his wife, Cate, co-founded Verishop, an e-commerce company that merges industry-leading technology and retail to create a shopping destination that both shoppers and brands can count on. Cate is a former VP of retail at Amazon, and this project brings together the couple’s professional expertise and personal passion.

"Giving is very important, primarily in an environment like this. There is so much inequality in many ways, and it’s important that people who are privileged share some of their success with others. I’m grateful to have this opportunity. Creating positive change takes the involvement of a lot of people, so I hope others will offer their support as well.” — Imran Khan

**Annie Hoskinson Creates Endowed Scholarship for Women’s Triathlon**

Annie Hoskinson’s passion for the University of Denver runs deep. Not only did she participate in the first season of women’s varsity athletics in 1974-1975, but she also spearheaded the recognition of women’s sports at DU. Together with others, Hoskinson convinced the University to offer four sports — field hockey, gymnastics, skiing and tennis — along with financial support for the sports. Basketball was added later, and Hoskinson played both field hockey and basketball throughout her college career. As a result of her athletic accomplishments and leadership, she was selected as DU’s Distinguished Senior Woman in 1975. Field Hockey Sportswoman of the Year in 1974-1975, and she went on to be named one of the top 10 female athletes of the year in 1975 by WomenSports magazine.

Hoskinson’s first professional position in Athletics and Recreation was one she proposed — assistant director of women’s intramurals. She went on to become the associate athletics director for event promotion and production at DU, which continued until 2010, and was a personal trainer and spin instructor for nine years.

Currently, she is the executive director of Sportswomen of Colorado, which honors female athletes, celebrates their achievements and recognizes their efforts in advancing female individual and team sports.

"Growing up, I was constantly told I could not join the town-sponsored recreational sports," Hoskinson recalls. "So while the recognition of female athletes is important, especially because they are so deserving, I’m most interested in and determined that every female of any age has the opportunity to participate in sports.”

In celebration of her history and passion for athletics and the talented women and girls who participate in it, Hoskinson established a scholarship at DU for the women’s triathlon team. She has completed over 39 triathlons and aqua bikes, and she plans to continue adding to that number.

Hoskinson says she chose to provide a triathlon scholarship because she wanted to give back to the University that gave her so much. "All the University-sponsored women’s sports are important to me, and I want to encourage others to support Pioneer Athletics," she says. "I take great joy in walking through the Ritchie Center and seeing the general equity of the practice facilities, locker rooms, competitive venues, etc. I cannot help but smile the minute I walk into the building. We’ve come a long way and are still pushing."
Community and Opportunity through the DULAA Scholarship

When Aron Rodriguez (BA ’19, BS ’19, MAcc ’20) came to the University of Denver as a first-year student, he was at a disadvantage in learning to navigate a complex environment. He was, after all, the first in his family to attend college.

He attended a scholarship reception where he met members of the DU Latino Alumni Association (DULAA), many of whom also had been first-generation students. In talking to them, he found support and began to understand that he was not alone in his journey. Now Rodriguez has three degrees in accounting and political science from DU, and he is looking forward to making a difference in the world through his career in accounting.

Rodriguez and other students like him are exactly why DULAA created a scholarship several years ago. Knowing the challenges that Latinx students can face — both financially and culturally — the leaders of DULAA set out to help clear the path for DU students for years to come.

“I really want more Latinos to have an opportunity to go to college,” says Eileen Young (MLS ’99), one of the founding donors of the DULAA Scholarship. “Families often don’t have enough money to send their kids to college. This is my way of giving back and making sure we have money available for students who want to go.”

The DULAA Scholarship is open to DU students of Latinx heritage who have a demonstrated commitment to the Latinx community and have experience in working with the community. Through the DULAA Scholarship and the included mentoring, students receive funding for their education and a community that supports them throughout their years at DU and beyond.

Vivek Vaidya Establishes Fellowship for Engineering & Computer Science Students

“Growing up in India, education was fundamental to how we were raised,” says Vivek Vaidya (MS ’98). “I wouldn’t be here if my parents and grandparents hadn’t had such a focus on education.”

Vaidya’s educational journey brought him to the University of Denver, where he was the beneficiary of a fellowship while earning his master’s degree in computer science.

He and his wife Pallavi recently made a gift to DU — their first gift to the University — to endow a graduate teaching fellowship, which will allow students from diverse backgrounds to study engineering and computer science at DU as he did. They had been planning on making the gift as his way of giving back; receiving a letter in the mail from DU was the catalyst for him to reach out and start the process.

“Growing up in India, education was fundamental to how we were raised,” says Vivek Vaidya (MS ’98). “I wouldn’t be here if my parents and grandparents hadn’t had such a focus on education.”

Vaidya’s educational journey brought him to the University of Denver, where he was the beneficiary of a fellowship while earning his master’s degree in computer science.

He and his wife Pallavi recently made a gift to DU — their first gift to the University — to endow a graduate teaching fellowship, which will allow students from diverse backgrounds to study engineering and computer science at DU as he did. They had been planning on making the gift as his way of giving back; receiving a letter in the mail from DU was the catalyst for him to reach out and start the process.

In addition to providing opportunities for students, Vaidya is also staying connected with them — including having lunch with PhD students during a recent campus visit. His involvement in the DU community gives him exposure to diverse talent that he may recruit to his business.

Vaidya is a serial entrepreneur, building companies that have sold to giant tech companies like Microsoft and Salesforce. His new venture is helping the next generation of startups through his startup studio Super{set}, where he founds, funds and builds companies.

An experience he had as a DU student influences the way he operates in life and in business. He says he didn’t have the typical culture shock when he moved from India to DU. The experience that did surprise him, however, was the humility and approachable nature of the professors.

“They were extremely smart, and extremely open with their time,” he says. “In India, teachers are placed on a pedestal. It was a pleasant surprise here to see that the respect goes both ways. I was able to build very good relationships with my professors, and that experience has helped to define how I like to operate.”

“We are big believers in doing well by doing good,” he says, reflecting on his philanthropic investment and involvement with DU — which will have long-lasting impact on students’ educational and career opportunities.

Vivek Vaidya and Pallavi Gupta are members of the Spire Society.

Vivek Vaidya Establishes Fellowship for Engineering & Computer Science Students

“Growing up in India, education was fundamental to how we were raised,” says Vivek Vaidya (MS ’98). “I wouldn’t be here if my parents and grandparents hadn’t had such a focus on education.”

Vaidya’s educational journey brought him to the University of Denver, where he was the beneficiary of a fellowship while earning his master’s degree in computer science.

He and his wife Pallavi recently made a gift to DU — their first gift to the University — to endow a graduate teaching fellowship, which will allow students from diverse backgrounds to study engineering and computer science at DU as he did. They had been planning on making the gift as his way of giving back; receiving a letter in the mail from DU was the catalyst for him to reach out and start the process.

In addition to providing opportunities for students, Vaidya is also staying connected with them — including having lunch with PhD students during a recent campus visit. His involvement in the DU community gives him exposure to diverse talent that he may recruit to his business.

Vaidya is a serial entrepreneur, building companies that have sold to giant tech companies like Microsoft and Salesforce. His new venture is helping the next generation of startups through his startup studio Super{set}, where he founds, funds and builds companies.

An experience he had as a DU student influences the way he operates in life and in business. He says he didn’t have the typical culture shock when he moved from India to DU. The experience that did surprise him, however, was the humility and approachable nature of the professors.

“They were extremely smart, and extremely open with their time,” he says. “In India, teachers are placed on a pedestal. It was a pleasant surprise here to see that the respect goes both ways. I was able to build very good relationships with my professors, and that experience has helped to define how I like to operate.”

“We are big believers in doing well by doing good,” he says, reflecting on his philanthropic investment and involvement with DU — which will have long-lasting impact on students’ educational and career opportunities.
Students Move into Dimond Family Residential Village

The first class of University of Denver students to call the Dimond Family Residential Village home moved in last fall. In September 2020, the doors opened on the new first-year residential hall, the first of three buildings to open during the academic year under DU’s Denver Advantage Campus Framework Plan.

The residential village has more than 250 rooms, which, at capacity, can house more than 500 students. Dimond has six different “houses,” all named after different species of trees — aspen, blue spruce, cottonwood, dogwood, elm and Douglas fir. The houses were created to form cohorts of students — a concept known to contribute to their long-term success while in college. The building is also divided into 21 different pods, each containing more than 20 rooms and a lounge. An additional dozen common and study spaces are scattered throughout the hall, and the Village Kitchen is located on the ground floor.

Construction of the residential complex, named after the Dimond Family Foundation following a transformational gift, began in 2018. At that time, the University committed to hiring diverse businesses for major capital projects. This pledge resulted in minority-, women- and veteran-owned businesses, as well as small businesses, making up 35% of all business participation in the Dimond project. Other new facilities on campus also represent diverse business participation including DU’s Burwell Center for Career Achievement and the Community Commons at 28% and 20% diverse business participation, respectively.

The residential village also reflects a deep commitment to sustainability. Rooftop solar has been incorporated into the construction. The six different houses are individually metered, allowing for energy-use competitions among students. The building is also on track for LEED Gold certification.

The building is full of unique features that will benefit students during their first year on the DU campus. Inside, concrete columns have been deliberately chipped to create a durable finish that will withstand move-in days for years to come. The fourth-floor bridge connecting the facility’s two wings boasts a critical design element — a tree trunk-like appearance, with the fretwork of the windows becoming a multistory canopy complete with a tree house spot. Also, a workers wall features the names of the 800 people who contributed to the building’s construction. The names of every architect, carpenter, flagman and facility employee is displayed alphabetically.

The Dimond family is part of the C&G Society and the Spire Society.

The 4D Experience is becoming a reality across the DU campus. Rooted in Chancellor Jeremy Haefner’s vision of a holistic college experience that nurtures all aspects of a student’s journey, the 4D Experience combines curriculum, life skills, experiential learning and immersion in the natural world to prepare students for lives and careers of purpose. The openings of three campus buildings over the past year — the Community Commons, the Dimond Family Residential Village and the Burwell Center for Career Achievement — exemplify the University’s mobilization of spaces and programs to advance our students’ journeys. Other initiatives across campus, whether in learning effectiveness, athletics, health and counseling, or a multitude of other areas, similarly promote students’ holistic wellness and achievement during their time at DU.
New Community Commons Opens to the Campus

With 360-degree views of campus and a sweeping outlook on the Front Range, the new Community Commons at the University of Denver offers a stunning centerpiece for a beautiful campus. The 132,000-square-foot building is designed to invigorate the traditional student experience with a central dining hall, comfortable lounges and student services.

It is the new central place for students, faculty, staff and alumni to gather and connect. The building has dedicated space for many clubs and organizations, a faculty lounge and offices for study abroad, internationalization, academic advising, student outreach and support, international student and scholar services, veteran services and the intercultural suite.

Community Commons at a Glance

- **132,000 square feet**
- **Dining options** on multiple levels
- **Power outlets** near every seat
- **30% of green roof** planted with grass
- **Displacement air system** contributes to cleaner environment

Richard C. Saunders Canyon
Named for Dick Saunders, 1963 DU graduate who fondly remembers driving through the canyons up to Estes Park during his first days in Colorado as a DU student.

Dick and Jeanne Saunders are members of the Spire Society and the Pioneer Legacy Society.

Rebecca Chopp
Named in honor of Chancellor Emerita Rebecca Chopp for the many ways in which she built community at DU.

Rebecca Chopp is a member of the C&G Society and the Pioneer Legacy Society.

Dick and Jeanne Saunders are members of the Spire Society and the Pioneer Legacy Society.

Rebecca Chopp in a former of the C&G Society and the Pioneer Legacy Society.
Burwell Center for Career Achievement Welcomes Students

The Burwell Center for Career Achievement opened its doors to students in September 2020, ushering in a new era for DU students and alumni. Within the new building – the most recent of the Denver Advantage campus transformation – students and alumni alike find spaces to gather for social and career opportunities.

Sitting on the site of the former Leo Block Alumni Center, the Burwell Center is named in honor of Barbara Burwell, the late Rodney Burwell, their sons, Peter (BSBA ’11) and wife Ashley, Blake (BSME, MBA ’15) and Michael (BA ’16, MBA ’17), whose transformational $5 million gift made the Burwell Center a reality. At the June 2019 groundbreaking, Mrs. Burwell said the programs of the new Burwell Center would be its most important feature.

The Burwell Center honors alumni tradition through its thoughtful design. All the brick and granite tiles etched with names from the old alumni center now grace the entrance to the Burwell Center. The granite pillars that held the hitching posts originally in front of University Hall, when horses were the main transportation mode to campus, have been refurbished into bike racks to serve today’s students’ transportation needs. The limestone piece that was engraved as an alumni gift, formerly in the old gym, is now part of the Burwell Center’s structure.

The Burwell Center aspires to reach LEED Platinum status, a tribute to its innovative design and environmental efficiency. Its cross-laminated timber construction provides not only a warm aesthetic, but also superior fire, seismic, acoustic, environmental and thermal performance – supporting sustainability while providing a space that is uniquely Colorado. All the building’s systems are designed to use minimal resources, and its roof is covered with solar panels.

The Burwell Center’s location is a nexus point for campus, welcoming the public to campus and encouraging alumni to engage with their alma mater. Every layer of the building provides functionality for both students and alumni. The grand opening celebration to the general public was delayed until late 2021.

The Burwell family is part of the C&G Society and the Spire Society. Barbara Burwell is also a member of the Pioneer Legacy Society.
Leadership Gift Names Denver Men’s Soccer Head Coaching Position

The University of Denver Division of Athletics and Recreation has launched its third head coaching endowment: the Jack and Sheila Weinberg Men’s Soccer Head Coach Endowed Fund, made possible by Jack and Sheila Weinberg.

“I’m so grateful for Jack and Sheila, and their commitment to making this head coaching endowment possible,” Vice Chancellor for Athletics, Recreation and Ritchie Center Operations Karlton Creech said. “Our student-athletes and future Pioneers benefit greatly from their generosity, as our men’s soccer program continues to represent this University at a championship level on the field, in the classroom and in their community. Coaching endowments play such an important role in helping the University recruit and retain top-level talent as our program continues its pursuit of a men’s soccer national championship.”

Jack and Sheila Weinberg have been married for more than 38 years and were college sweethearts at DU. Jack was a goalkeeper for the crimson and gold through his final season in 1978. After receiving his BSBA in Finance, Jack went on to work for Columbia Pictures. He eventually returned to Chicago where he owned and operated various television production and post-production facilities and other ventures. After graduating from DU with a degree in accounting, Sheila worked for regional accounting firms and as a consultant throughout her career. Sheila, a CPA, founded Truth in Accounting, a not-for-profit whose mission is to educate and empower citizens with understandable and reliable government financial information. The couple lives in Glencoe, Illinois, where they have resided since their nuptials. Jack and Sheila have two sons, and their families, including two granddaughters, live in the area. Jack is a director of two family charitable foundations and chairs the Gottlieb Memorial Foundation. He continues to be involved with amateur sports and be an advocate for them as a director of the Positive Coaching Alliance in Chicago.

Playing a sport provides experiences that can transform a young player into an industrious, disciplined person who, while enjoying the pure exhilaration of the game, learns to appreciate the talents of their teammates and respect the competition.

— Jack Weinberg

Investing in the Learning Effectiveness Program

When a new student decided to attend the University of Denver, the Learning Effectiveness Program (LEP) was a big draw for the family. Founded in 1982, the LEP provides individualized support for neurodiverse learners with specific learning disabilities, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, students on the autism spectrum, and/or students who have a history of learning differences. Since its inception, the nationally recognized program, which serves over 300 students each year, has developed some of the most comprehensive and innovative support services provided at the postsecondary level.

“Our son has some learning differences, so we thought it was best for him to attend a university that supports students like him,” says the student’s father. “We were excited for him to be in an environment that was going to meet his needs at so many levels but encountered a few professors who didn’t totally understand his needs.”

Starting in 2020, the family has generously given to the LEP to enhance the learning experience for current and future students.

As professors continue to gain a more comprehensive understanding of the program and the necessary accommodations – such as extra time when taking tests, tutoring, advisors, etc. – the student’s parents have found that their son is having an even better college experience.

“Our son is a high-performing kid who may not seem like he requires accommodations, but he does,” says the student’s mother. “We wanted to ensure that future students succeed and that professors have a better understanding of working with students with learning differences.”

The family has requested to remain anonymous for the privacy of their son.
Across academic fields at the University of Denver, innovation paves the way for a brighter future. Gifts from visionary donors provide the means to create new ways to learn, to connect and to deliver knowledge to the communities that will most benefit from it. In embracing innovation, DU becomes a model for knowledge creation and delivery in multiple fields.

Philanthropy Fuels Innovation to Meet Mental Health Needs

Mental health resources soon will be available to more people throughout Colorado thanks to new partnerships between the University of Denver’s Graduate School of Professional Psychology (GSPP) and multiple generous supporters. Those visionary partnerships are amplifying GSPP’s multifaceted effort to use technology and other means of creative innovation to heighten access to mental health services in communities across our state.

A recent gift from the PIVOT Foundation will help to meet the striking need for equitable and accessible mental and behavioral health care in both urban and rural communities of Colorado. Twenty-two of the state’s 64 counties lack a licensed psychologist, which is evidence of rural Colorado’s deep need for increased mental health services.

PIVOT’s generosity will fuel a new mental health app, much like a mental health “marketplace,” that builds on GSPP’s academic and community excellence. It will provide both workforce development of mental health professionals and direct service for communities across Colorado. It will include an in-person service hub in the Denver metro area as well as virtual services provided in rural areas across the state.

Connected to that vision, a recent gift from GSPP’s Board of Advisors member Bud Ross will also bolster innovation in the field. His gift supports the creation of a faculty innovation fund to empower faculty members to pursue projects that use an out-of-the-box approach to advance mental and behavioral health. Such projects include a groundbreaking analysis of child abuse in sport coaching, the exploration of a mobile mental health unit and more.

Through these gifts, GSPP has an opportunity to expand its work, maximizing the impact of its research and practical expertise by using sophisticated innovations to meet a great need for individuals across Colorado.
Sié Center Receives Renewal for Carnegie Grant

The Sié Chéou-Kang Center for International Security and Diplomacy at the Josef Korbel School of International Studies at the University of Denver has received a two-year, $600,000 grant from the Carnegie Corporation of New York to extend and expand its work on promoting ethical approaches to policy engagement. The project, funded by the Carnegie Corporation since 2018, is designed to make ethical considerations an integral part of policy-relevant research and engagement in the field of international affairs.

“Inspired by what we saw in the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic, our project highlights dilemmas around advising policy makers on urgent concerns when scholars don’t have a complete picture,” explained Sié Center Director Dr. Deborah Avant. “The project will explore how academic experts facing uncertainty and rapid change can nonetheless engage responsibly and constructively around a variety of policy issues increasingly related to peace and security, including public health, racial and economic inequalities, political polarization and climate change.”

Fostering responsible engagement between scholars and practitioners has become a central tenet of the Sié Center, which aligns with the Carnegie Corporation’s mission to bridge the gap between scholarship and practice on pressing global peace and security issues.

LARRK Foundation Gives $1M for Perinatal to Five Mental Health Specialty

A recent $1 million grant from the LARRK Foundation will help establish a faculty chair in the Perinatal to Five Mental Health (P-5) specialty within the Graduate School of Professional Psychology (GSPP).

In supporting the chair, the foundation’s generosity will strengthen research, teaching and programs that focus on mental health in expecting caregivers and families with young children ages birth through five. In addition to supporting the faculty position, this grant stands as an opportunity for other individuals and foundations to supplement the foundation’s generosity, with a goal of meeting the $3 million threshold of endowing the faculty chair. If that threshold is not met with additional funds, the foundation’s grant will broadly support the work of the P-5 specialty.

From expecting families facing increased stressors while preparing for a baby to children five and under who are learning to establish secure relationships and explore their environment, the mental health needs of this population are significant. Timely prevention and intervention by trained specialists, particularly working with underserved populations, are critical factors in promoting healthy psychological development.

Established in 2016 by a generous grant from the LARRK Foundation, GSPP’s P-5 specialty has grown significantly over the past few years. The leadership of Tracy Vozar, who joined DU in October of 2017, and an increased focus on implementing direct services, applied research and community programs supporting the healthy psychological development of the youngest among our underserved populations have greatly contributed to the strength of the specialty.

Dr. Vozar and the Perinatal to Five Mental Health specialty are changing lives among the most vulnerable in our community,” said Louisa Jornayvaz, LARRK Foundation trustee. “In making this grant toward the endowed chair, the LARRK Foundation hopes to strengthen their research and service in mental health to help even more families. The excellence of GSPP’s work is because of the greatness of DU, and their work is here to serve all of Colorado.”
E@DU: Empowering Entrepreneurship

Since 2017, Brad Feld and Amy Batchelor have generously donated to the Entrepreneurship@DU (E@DU) program within the Daniels College of Business. Their initial interest was the new initiative called Project X-ITE, which was started by JB Holston, former dean of the Ritchie School of Engineering and Computer Science.

"JB had co-founded the Blackstone Entrepreneurs Network of Colorado and was the executive director for the first year before going to DU, so he knew the power of engaging the Colorado startup community," says Feld.

Offering an entrepreneurship minor that can complement any DU major, along with an array of events, programs and experiences across campus, E@DU gives students room to explore their interests, passions and purpose regarding their next big idea. E@DU has also introduced microgrants that are available to DU students from any full-time program to support new and early-stage business ideas.

Because Feld and Batchelor have been deeply involved in the evolution of the Colorado startup community since moving to Boulder in 1995, E@DU means a great deal to the family. Additionally, they continue to believe that the experience of entrepreneurship, especially through immersive learning, is a key part of any college education.

"We have been strong supporters of various initiatives at MIT, Wellesley and CU Boulder and were happy to get involved with DU’s entrepreneurship program," Feld adds. "I’m extraordinarily proud of what many entrepreneurial leaders have accomplished since we moved here and am excited about the next 20 years of entrepreneurial activity in Colorado."

Brad Feld and Amy Batchelor are members of the C&G Society, Daniels Dean’s Circle and the Spire Society.