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FEATURES

THIS STORY BEGINS WITH THE BISHOPS..... 4

WCCC tuition reduced by nearly 40% with the help of Tillie and Pat Bishop’s generous bequest

THIS STORY BEGINS WITH TRUSTEE RON DAVIS AND DONOR CHUCK SHEAR 6

Trustee Davis’ WCCC donation challenge already matched and exceeded by generous community members

THIS STORY BEGINS WITH CAROLE STROBL AND DON FISCUS 7

Alumni lifelong support of education includes \$100,000 contribution to their endowment

THIS STORY BEGINS WITH THE CITY OF GRAND JUNCTION..... 8

Hundreds of Grand Valley high school graduates on college to career path thanks to the city’s generosity

CONTENTS

From the President..... 3

Board of Directors..... 2–3

Planned Giving 9

Financial Highlights 10–11

1925 Society 12–14

Donor Honor Roll 15–18

Distinguished Mavericks 19–23

COLORADO MESA UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS, 2022–2023



Jamee Simons, *President*; Mark Gardner, *Vice President*; Jeff Taets, *Secretary/Treasurer*; Karen Madsen, *Past President*; Jennie Aubert, Kevin Brooks, Kelianne Chamberlain

Many of you will remember Colorado Mesa University garnered national attention for collaborating with some of the nation's leading researchers during the global pandemic. CMU is once again gaining national attention for our unique geo-grid system that helps power campus. This energy innovation is not only a significant feat of engineering, but also represents what is possible when ingenuity, creativity and a commitment to sustainability converge. CMU's geo-exchange technology saves energy, enhances sustainability and keeps tuition low when economic challenges are high helping your donated gifts go further.

During these difficult economic times, some are questioning the value of higher education with debates over the merits of student loan forgiveness. CMU welcomes this challenge. We welcome that parents, students and donors are demanding more from higher education because CMU has more to offer.

CMU continues exerting leadership by reducing the need for student borrowing in the first place. Through foundation scholarships, apprenticeships and college credit options for high school students, CMU and Western Colorado Community College have dozens of courses and programs that are available at no cost to students. These low or no cost options are perfect for people who want to make a difference in their community, gain new skills and knowledge, and help address the state's ongoing workforce needs.

As global trends and current events continually shape and reshape the environment of education, there is one thing that never changes. The commitment CMU donors offer to students year after year, decade after decade, remains steadfast. CMU students can rely on Foundation supporters no matter what is happening in the world.

Thank you for your role as the bedrock financial support for the Maverick community. Serving students alongside you as CMU president is the honor of a lifetime. As we work together to build a campus based on values, I am confident CMU will continue to play a leading role in helping reshape higher education.

Best,



John Marshall, President
Colorado Mesa University



Colorado Mesa University
President John Marshall

Mission

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



BOARD OF DIRECTORS continued



Ed Chamberlin, Angela Hegstrom, Joe Higgins, Dave Patterson, Phil Pe'a, Dan Rubinstein, Tish Saunders

EVERY STORY BEGINS WITH YOU

Colorado Mesa University's collective story spans generations of Mavericks and is filled with aspirations, determination and achievements. Our story and impact on the world would not be possible without you. Because of you, students are discovering new passions and faculty members are helping students realize their full potential.



THIS STORY BEGINS WITH THE BISHOPS

WCCC tuition reduced by nearly 40% with the help of Tillie and Pat Bishop's generous bequest

For nearly three decades, Western Colorado Community College has provided diverse pathways for students. WCCC continually adds and adjusts programs like Early Childhood Education, Nurse Aide, Welding and Veterinary Technology to address workforce needs within our community. A priority for the university is also making higher education more accessible through affordability. More than ever before, the flat tuition rate between CMU and WCCC has become a financial barrier for students, and their families, pursuing career and technical certificates and associate degrees, but that has changed.

On May 20, 2022, President John Marshall along with the CMU Board of Trustees announced that the university, through the generosity of Tilman "Tillie" and Pat Bishop, significantly reduced tuition for WCCC's career and technical education programs.

The Bishops spent their lives in service to the community and state. One of their final acts of philanthropy included a bequest of \$3.9 million to CMU that will positively impact students and the western slope community for generations to come.

Governor Jared Polis, Marshall, CMU Board of Trustee Chair Alison Griffin, students, faculty, staff and several friends of the Bishop family came together to celebrate this gift, which resulted in the Learn for Less affordability initiative. Learn for Less lowers WCCC's tuition and fees per credit hour from \$321.45 to \$197. This initiative is saving students and their families nearly 40% starting this Fall 2022 semester.

"We are so fortunate to have innovative forward-looking institutions like CMU and WCCC that are leading the way and really setting a great example of bold innovation for others to follow," Polis said.

In this first semester alone, this reduction will benefit approximately 1,300 students, many of whom never would have started college due to the financial barrier.

"We are all incredibly humbled by the generous support of a former CMU Trustee, Tillie Bishop, that made today's announcement possible. I was actually appointed by Governor Polis to fill Tillie Bishop's seat when he passed away," said Griffin. "And so today it is quite bittersweet for me to be standing here acknowledging the generosity and commitment of Tillie and Pat Bishop which seems to have no end. Their lasting impact on this community will inspire us all."

"... it is quite bittersweet for me to be standing here acknowledging the generosity and commitment of Tillie and Pat Bishop which seems to have no end. Their lasting impact on this community will inspire us all."

A long-time family friend of the Bishops and fellow community leader, Terry Farina, said that for some reason, he thought of a specific line from Shakespeare's Julius Caesar when Marshall told him about the Learn for Less affordability initiative.

"The line where the bard muses about what endures when people die, the line that goes 'the good is often interred with their bones.'" Farina said, "It just struck me how Tillie and Pat had turned that line on its ear. What they have done with that bequest and what CMU is doing with that bequest here at WCCC — that will endure. We all know education has a kind

"... if Tillie and Pat are listening — you've done good! And just as importantly, that good will live on for generations!"

of multiplier to it, an exponential factor. It touches people who touch other people and it goes on and on in many ways that we cannot predict. But all for the good! And so, if Tillie and Pat are listening — you've done good! And just as importantly that goodwill lives on for generations!" •



Pat and Tilman "Tillie" Bishop in 1994 standing in front of the Tilman M. Bishop Unified Technical Education Campus or UTECH sign, known today as the Bishop campus, home of Western Colorado Community College.



CMU President John Marshall and Tillie Bishop at Spring Commencement, May 12, 2018. Pat Bishop inside the newly dedicated Center for Reflection in January 2021.

THIS STORY BEGINS WITH TRUSTEE RON DAVIS AND DONOR CHUCK SHEAR

Trustee Davis' WCCC donation challenge already matched and exceeded by generous community members

After a successful business career, Trustee Ron Davis pioneered and funded the Guardian Scholars program to make college accessible to first-generation students in California. When expanding this mission to Colorado, he found that his objectives aligned seamlessly with CMU and WCCC's mission including WCCC's trade and technical education programs that are vital to the local economy.

"Western Colorado Community College is an amazing community asset," said Davis. "The importance of the trades is clear, and the need for scholarships to provide job training for students is huge."

Mesa County, along with the rest of the nation, is suffering significant employee shortages in a variety of industries. WCCC has vital relationships with regional workforce partners and continually addresses credentialed personnel needs and removing financial barriers for prospective students. Most recently, WCCC has created financial aid opportunities for much-needed certified nurse assistants and early childhood education teachers. Through paid apprenticeships with local healthcare and childcare

facilities students learn in a hands-on environment, fill otherwise empty roles and earn credentials at little or no tuition cost. The foresight and generosity of donors, and state and federal grants make this possible.

"My commitment to enhancing opportunities for students as a CMU trustee and as an individual who has devoted my life to education has never been stronger," Davis said. "I look forward to increasing access to education for people while creating a new generation of electricians, firefighters, nurses, welders and other trades that are essential to the vibrancy of western Colorado."

The first donor to answer the challenge Davis issued was CMU alumnus Chuck Shear, who pledged \$40,000. Shear spent more than 50 years working in every aspect of the oil and gas industry both locally and nationally. This inspired him to help the next generation of energy professionals enter the field by generously creating the Shear Family Energy Management/Landman Program Endowed Scholarship. He is proud to invest in the future of other essential industries in his community. •



Ron Davis at the unveiling celebration of the Davis School of Business in 2020. Chuck Shear at the West Slope Colorado Oil & Gas Association banquet in 2022.

THIS STORY BEGINS WITH CAROLE STROBL AND DON FISCUS

**Alumni lifelong support of education
includes \$100,000 contribution
to their endowment**

Carole Strobl and Don Fiscus share a lifetime of connection to one another and to CMU. They became neighbors and lifelong family friends in 1946 — she was four years old and he was six. They dated in junior high and high school, and each went on to study at CMU.

“Don was my dancing instructor at Mesa Junior College in my freshman year of 1959. Of course, I received an A for the class!” Carole said.

Don, Carole and their late spouses all graduated from CMU and all four served in education locally. Carole married Robert in 1960 and Don married Janet in 1964. Don taught 5th and 6th grades for 31 years while Janet was involved as educational support staff. Carole was a library technician at Grand Junction High School and Robert taught numerous firefighting classes to western Colorado volunteer fire departments.

After Janet died in 2008 and Robert died in 2009, Don called Carole and invited her to dinner. From there, their relationship renewed.

In their long conversations they discovered common dreams, which included continuing to support educational endeavors. In honor of Robert and Janet the Strobl Fiscus Endowment was created — a dream Carole and Don had each discussed with their late spouses.

The endowment awards six scholarships per year. Two for first-generation students because Don, Carole and Robert were the first in their respective families to earn a college degree. Two in theatre arts because they all enjoyed the theatre and the friendship of the late William Robinson, CMU’s theatre namesake. The final two scholarships are for teacher education in honor of Miss Fanny Bartcher, Don and Carole’s 5th and 6th grade teacher, who inspired them to study education and in honor of their families’ teaching and education careers.

Carole and Don always dreamed of travel but their spouses weren’t interested or able. Together, they found a love of cruises enjoying the lectures, tours, dinners, slots, theatre shows and of course dancing.

In 2020, they were extremely disappointed to cancel a 118-day world cruise due to COVID-19.

“As such, we decided to make something good out of our disappointment,” Carole said.



Clockwise from top: Don Fiscus and Carole Strobl at The Great Wall of China during a world cruise. Carole and her late husband, Robert Strobl, on Carole’s CMU graduation day in 1971. Don and his late wife, Janet, on their wedding day.

That something good was a \$100,000 contribution to their endowment.

“Over the years, we have received so many nice thank-you letters from our scholarship recipients. The letters not only inspire us, but also give us a hopeful glimpse for the future. We are grateful to be able to help, in some small way, students achieve their goals of learning,” Carole said. •

THIS STORY BEGINS WITH THE CITY OF GRAND JUNCTION

Hundreds of Grand Valley high school graduates on college to career path thanks to the city's generosity

Colorado Mesa University and the City of Grand Junction have an exceptional partnership, which includes their joint investment in local individuals, businesses and the economy. For the past four years, the city council has voted to invest \$550,000 in local students through the Grand Junction Opportunity Scholarship fund — giving Mesa County Valley School District 51 high school graduates the opportunity to study at CMU or WCCC and become the next generation of innovators and professionals.

"Ensuring Mesa County students are proud to stay here and can thrive in our community after high school is something our community has been working on since I was a local student," said City of Grand Junction Mayor Anna Stout. "Higher education options give students reasons to stay, and we're making it more accessible for families through the Grand Junction Opportunity Scholarship."



City of Grand Junction Mayor Anna Stout

"Higher education options give students reasons to stay, and we're making it more accessible for families through the Grand Junction Opportunity Scholarship."

Since its inception, this scholarship has been awarded to 532 students. So far, 118 of them have successfully graduated earning 96 certificates, 11 associate and 11 bachelor's degrees. For the 2021-2022 academic year, the Grand Junction Opportunity Scholarship supported 446 students and the first class of



Fruita Monument High School and CMU graduate Andrea Sheeks received a Grand Junction Opportunity Scholarship, earned a Bachelor of Art in Hispanic Studies and returned to her former high school as a Spanish teacher.

recipients to earn a bachelor's degree graduated this past May.

"Receiving the scholarship was amazing because it made me feel like there was someone who actually believed in me and believed that I could use this money to get on the path to graduating," said local high school graduate and now CMU alumna Andrea Sheeks.

Sheeks earned a Bachelor of Art in Hispanic Studies and returned to her former high school as a Spanish teacher this fall. Her plans for the future include earning a doctorate in linguistics or teaching abroad.

The scholarship truly changed the trajectory of Sheeks goals for the future.

"I actually never thought I would be a college graduate because I thought that goal wasn't attainable," she said. "Thank you for the opportunity to continue my education with all the resources at my fingertips that helped me be successful in college."

Beyond annual investments in local workforce development like the Grand Junction Opportunity Scholarship fund, the City of Grand Junction is a steadfast partner in funding campus expansion, vital program infrastructure projects like the St. Mary's Medical Education Center and numerous other strategic partnerships in conjunction with other local economic development partners. •

HAVE YOU WANTED TO BE MORE GENEROUS IN SUPPORTING STUDENTS AT CMU? CREATE A LEGACY.

Giving doesn't have to be smart — if you do it smartly. Thoughtfully planning your philanthropy can magnify the impact of your donation and, in some cases, even provide you and loved ones income.

Which assets are best to give?

Donating appreciated assets, such as securities, real estate or personal property, can provide an income tax charitable deduction and avoid capital gains tax. Giving from a retirement plan can avoid taxes and benefit heirs. Not all assets are equal when it comes to which are best left to heirs and which to charities.

Which gifts provide income?

Providing for your life and those you love is important. Giving through a Charitable Gift Annuity or Charitable Remainder Unitrust can provide tax benefits and an income stream.

When is the best time to give?

A bequest, a gift made through a will or living trust, is easy and costs nothing during a donor's lifetime. You can also feel assured that if circumstances change, you will have the assets you need during your lifetime. Donating through life insurance can be simple, affordable and leverage your giving to students.



Everyone's financial situation is specific to them, and we highly suggest you consult your accountant or advisor to help determine what is best for you.

If you would like to discuss smart ways of giving to the CMU Foundation, please contact Rick Adleman at radleman@coloradomesa.edu or 970.248.1871.



When I learned how few Mesa County high school students were going on to some type of college or training due to their families' income, I knew I could help. That is when I established an endowment at CMU to fund scholarships.

So, I see my support of CMU as supporting the community I live in — a place where it is needed and will make a real impact! I am not an alumna of CMU, nor have I taken classes there. My alma mater has an endowment of over \$290 million, so it's not really needed there.

Since then, I have included this scholarship as a beneficiary of my IRA and an annuity. You could say I've got these students covered three ways!

– Donor Joyce Owens



FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Your support continues to break records at the CMU Foundation. During the last five years, we've doubled a number of important metrics including total support to CMU and the number and amount of scholarships awarded. For the 2021–2022 fiscal year, the CMU Foundation provided more than \$9.3 million in support to CMU, including a record \$4.1 million in scholarships to 1,567 students. Our endowment hit an all-time high of \$51.5 million in December 2021 and despite market fluctuations in the spring and summer, we know it will recover in time. Our total number of donors reached 4,567 and donations from alumni increased almost 20% over last year.

In 2022, we received the largest estate gift in CMU history from Pat and Tillie Bishop, which allowed CMU to accomplish a long-time goal of reducing WCCC tuition by 40%. You can read about the incredible generosity of the Bishops on page 4. CMU is committed to keeping tuition low as well as continuing to focus on first-generation students and we are able to do that because of your continued support of our endowed funds which serve as the backbone of our institution. I hope you enjoy the fascinating stories of our incredible donors that make all this possible — Carole Strobl and Don Fiscus, Ron Davis and Chuck Shear as well as our incredible partner, the City of Grand Junction. On behalf of the current and future students of CMU, thank you to all of our donors who provide that support. Since we awarded our first scholarship in 1961, you have provided almost \$30 million in scholarships to CMU and WCCC students. Our story begins and continues with you. — Robin Brown, Foundation CEO



4,567

Number of donors

\$9,198,420

Value of gifts received

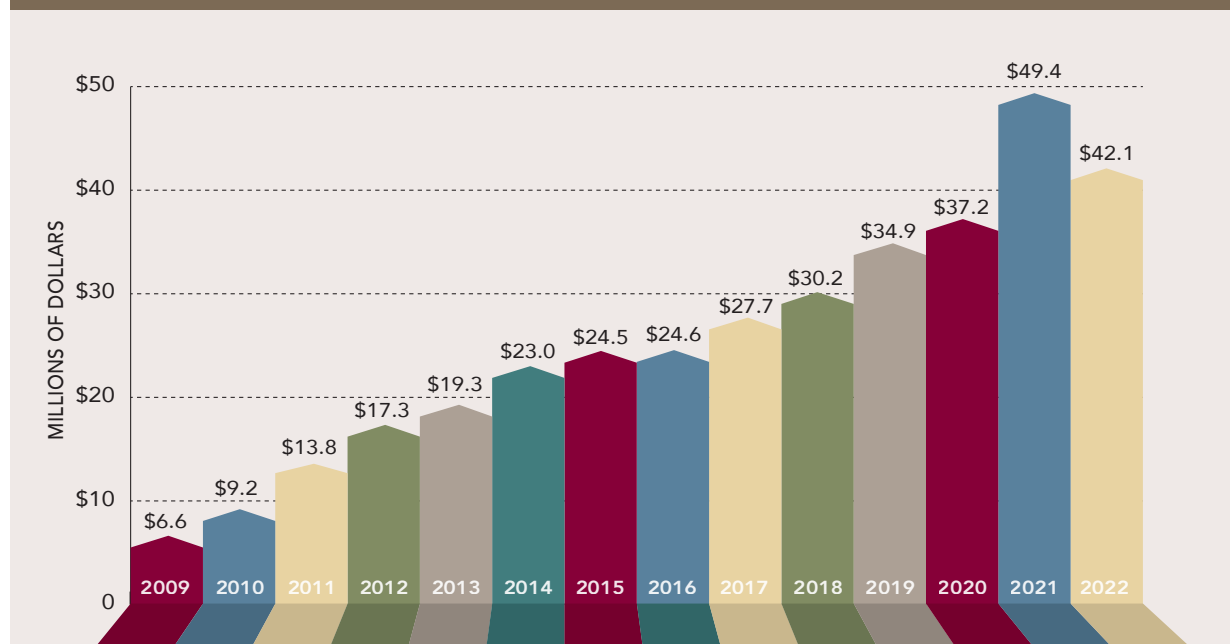
\$42,109,580

Endowment value

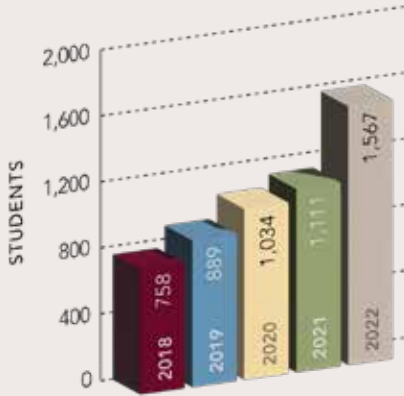
7,838

Number of gifts received

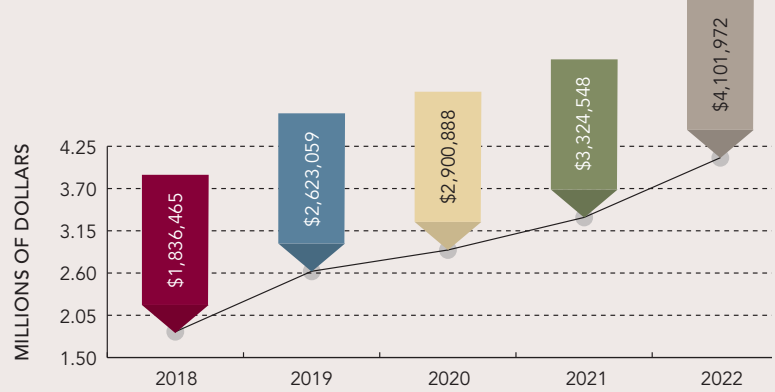
Endowment Value



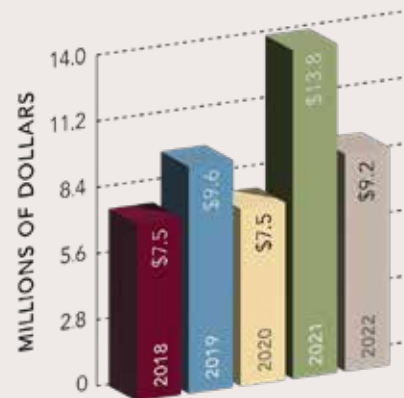
Scholarships Awarded



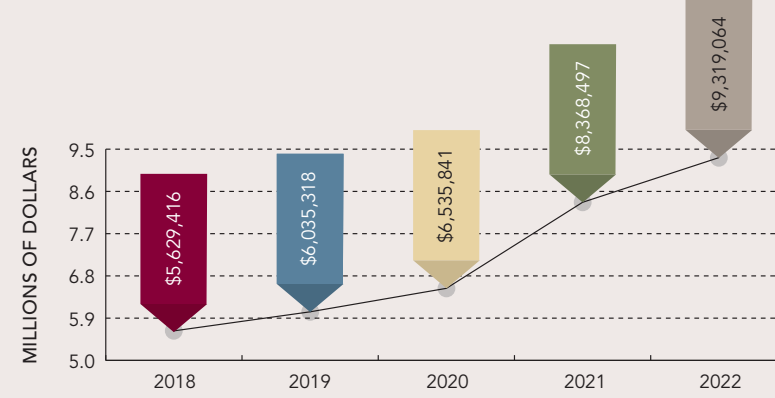
Scholarship Dollars Awarded



Gifts Received



Support Provided to CMU



\$4.1M

Scholarship dollars awarded in fiscal year 2021–22

\$28.3M

Amount of scholarships awarded since 1962

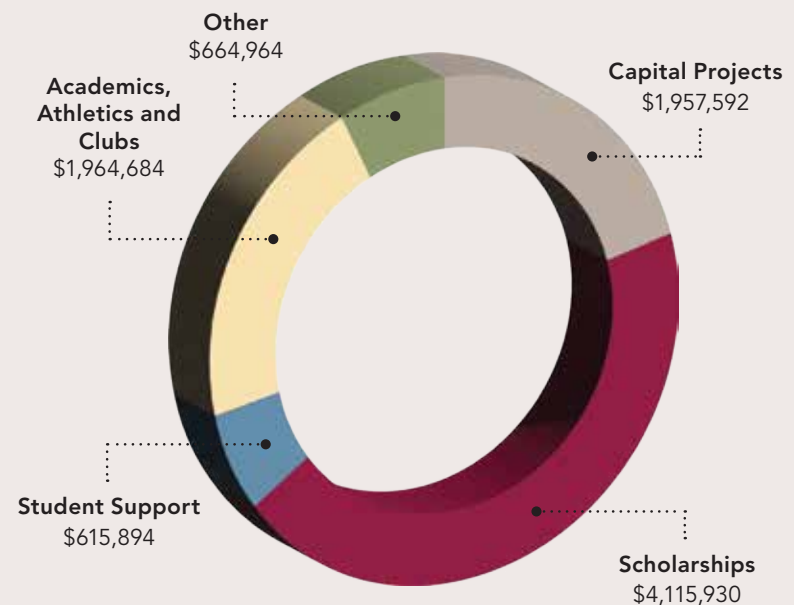
23.4%

Increase in scholarship dollars awarded

\$9.3M

The amount spent to support CMU's mission in 2021–22

Foundation's Support to CMU, 2022 — \$9,319,064



1925 Society

COLORADO MESA UNIVERSITY
FOUNDATION

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

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

∞ Indicates a contribution to the endowment in fiscal year 2021–2022.

- Albert J. and Marion T. Merlino Scholarship
- Alvie Reddin Memorial Scholarship
- ∞ Alvin Lee Marts Memorial MSI Scholarship
- ∞ Anthony Lopez Memorial Scholarship
- Arbaney Family Endowed Scholarship
- ∞ B & B Electric Scholarship
- Bacon Family Foundation Foreign Student Scholarship
- ∞ Baines/Riede Memorial Scholarship
- ∞ Barbara L. Brown Endowed Scholarship
- Barry A. Bishop Endowed Scholarship
- ∞ Barry Michrina Memorial Scholarship
- ∞ Bauerle Family Endowed Scholarship
- ∞ Bechtel Family Scholarship
- Beckley/Weaver Scholarship
- Biggs-Zollner Faculty Enrichment Grant
- ∞ Bighorn Consulting Engineers Endowed Scholarship
- Bill and Peggy Foster Endowed Scholarship Fund
- ∞ BIOSINQ Endowment
- Blanche Buescher Business Endowed Scholarship Fund
- Blaney-Maluy Family Scholarship
- ∞ Bou-Matar Family Endowed Scholarship
- Brownson Memorial Leadership Scholarship
- ∞ Brownson MSI Endowment
- Bruce and Frances Crowell Scholarship
- Bruce and Louise Dixson Scholarship
- ∞ Bud Francis Scholarship
- ∞ Bus Bergman Baseball Scholarship
- ∞ Campbell Rogers General Scholarship
- ∞ Carl and Betty Wahlberg Partners Scholarship
- Carolyn D. Love Scholarship Fund
- ∞ Celeste Colgan Study Abroad Scholarship
- ∞ Chet Enstrom Memorial Scholarship
- Clara Boss Steele Scholarship
- ∞ CMU Alumni Association Scholarship
- ∞ CMU Emeriti/Retired Staff Scholarship
- ∞ Co/Wy Chapter of the American Fisheries Society Endowed Scholarship
- Connie McIntire-Altrusa Scholarship Endowment
- Continuing Unexpected Connections/MSI Endowment
- ∞ Copeland Family Endowed Scholarship
- ∞ Cornelison Memorial/WCCC General Cullen R. Brown Endowed Scholarship
- ∞ Cutter Endowed Aviation Scholarship
- ∞ Cycling Team Endowment
- ∞ Dan Brant Jr. Memorial Scholarship
- ∞ David M. Gardner Memorial Scholarship
- Davis My Future Pathways Fund
- Dean-Roush Scholarship
- Dieter Sander Engineering Endowed Scholarship
- Dixson B.A.S. in Business Administration Endowed Scholarship
- Dixson Scholar/Mentor Award
- ∞ Don MacKendrick History Scholarship
- ∞ Don Meyers Art Scholarship
- ∞ Donna H. Crouch Memorial Scholarship
- ∞ Doyle E. Burns Scholarship
- ∞ Dr. Dorr Burns Computer Science Scholarship
- Dr. Henry H. and Margaret Zeigel Fund
- ∞ Dr. Kit Neacy Scholarship Fund
- ∞ Dr. Richard Ballard Endowed Scholarship
- ∞ Dr. Russ Walker Memorial Environmental Science Endowed Scholarship
- ∞ Dr. Ruth Maurer Flute Program Endowment
- Dwight and Carolyn Tope Endowed Scholarship
- Eileen Nagatomo Townsend Memorial Scholarship
- Elliott Family, Carter & Lena Elliott Scholarship
- Emerson Family Nursing Scholarship Fund
- ∞ Eric "The Hawk" Hawkins Men's Basketball Endowed Scholarship
- Ernest D. Buescher Memorial Endowed Scholarship
- Esther Herr Memorial Scholarship
- Ethel Mae Moor Applied Music Fund
- Eva Cheek Memorial Scholarship
- FirstBank of Colorado Low Income Scholarship
- ∞ Foltz Family Scholarship Endowment
- ∞ Football Alumni Endowment
- Forrest Nelson Endowed Geology Fund
- ∞ Foster Alumni Mentors - Sylvia Aynn Richards Memorial Scholarship
- Freda T. Roof & Yngve Hanson Memorial Scholarship
- ∞ Gary Thompson Student Athlete Degree Completion Endowed Scholarship

Gean F. Lipson Trust Endowed Scholarship Fund
 George and Masuo Nagatomo Memorial Scholarship
 ∞ Geosciences Tuition Scholarship
 Gerlach Music Scholarship
 Goffredi Memorial Scholarship
 Gormley Memorial Scholarship
 Gower, Morford, Oleskevich & Kansgen Foreign Languages Scholarship
 Grand Junction New Car & Truck Dealers Association Scholarship
 Greer, Lapham, and Roth UTEC Scholarship
 Harriet Slagowski Memorial & Victoria Noell Family Endowment
 Hazel and Victor Garms Memorial Scholarship Fund
 ∞ Helen Krey Scholarship
 ∞ Hoolokahi Endowment
 Horan Family Endowed Football Scholarship
 Howard E. Scott Maverick Scholarship
 Inez Hulting Petersen Memorial Scholarship
 Institute for Supply Management Scholarship
 International Student Program Endowed Scholarship
 Jack, Wiley, and Calvin Gower History Scholarship
 Jackie Cochran Borello Scholarship
 James Family Scholarship
 ∞ Jeffrey Alan Basinger Leadership Scholarship
 ∞ JoAnn Brown Scholarship
 ∞ Joe Higgins Scholarship
 John B. Wolf Scholarship
 John E. Groneman Endowed Scholarship Fund
 Jose Peer Memorial Scholarship
 Joseph and Delia Prinster Family Scholarship
 Josephine Moen Scholarship
 ∞ Josephine Roessler-Prinster Scholarship
 Joy and Alfred Shideler Endowed Scholarship Fund
 ∞ Julie Fredlund Science Scholarship
 Kevin Wagner Memorial Endowed Scholarship Fund
 ∞ Knudson Family Endowed Scholarship
 ∞ Krey Special Purpose Scholarship Fund
 Kristopher B. Buescher Memorial Scholarship
 ∞ Landen Manning Jones Scholarship
 Lathrop Scholarship
 LeRoy Bacon Memorial Scholarship
 ∞ Liff Miller Nursing Scholarship
 ∞ Lisa and Tim Foster Scholarship
 ∞ Locke Academic Scholarship Fund
 ∞ Lou and Mickey Heeres Endowed Scholarship
 ∞ Lou Morton & Dale J. Hollingsworth Poli-Sci Scholarship
 Louis and Betty Brach Scholarship
 Loyd and Cordelia Files Memorial Scholarship
 Lucero Family Endowed Scholarship
 MacEvoy Family Endowed Scholarship

Madge Huffer Scholarship
 Madsen Family MSI Endowment
 ∞ Mai and William S. Robinson Scholarship
 Mai Robinson English Scholarship
 ∞ Margaret Goodhue-Altrusa Scholarship Endowment
 Marion Fletcher Scholarship
 Marjorie Sollenbarger Memorial Endowed Scholarship
 Mark Garman Scholarship
 Mark Zoppel Memorial Scholarship
 Mary Elizabeth (McDonald) Dolan Scholarship
 Mary Rait/Mary Jewell Willsea Endowed Grants Fund
 Mattie Smith Wagler Scholarship
 ∞ Maverick Innovation Center Opportunity Fund
 ∞ MBA Alumni Scholarship Endowment
 Merle and Thelma Lanning Scholarship
 ∞ Mesa County Medical Society Scholarship
 ∞ Mesa Scholarship Initiative Endowment
 Meyer Family Endowment
 ∞ Micah Dancy Endowed Music Scholarship
 Michelle Benway Huggins Memorial Endowed Scholarship
 Milton W. "Red" Crawford Tennis Scholarship
 ∞ Moss Fairley Wagler Scholarship
 Nathan B Carson Memorial Scholarship
 ∞ Nora Reed Burleigh Endowed Scholarship
 Opal Snowden (Suzi) Boyd Memorial Fund
 ∞ Patricia White Powell Endowed Scholarship
 Petty Creek Farm Fund
 ∞ Plumleigh Photojournalism Scholarship
 Professional Land Surveyors of Colorado Endowment
 Randall Capp Family Endowed Scholarship
 Rarick Endowed Scholarship
 RBC Dain Rauscher Scholarship
 Rex Howell Memorial Fund
 ∞ Richard D. Dayvault Endowed Memorial Scholarship
 Richard E. Tope Memorial Scholarship
 ∞ Richard F. Gilmore Sr. DDS Endowed Scholarship Fund
 ∞ Rick Smith Memorial Scholarship
 Robert and Cynthia Cutter Scholarship
 ∞ Rocky Mountain Open Golf Tournament Endowment
 ∞ Ron Halsey Memorial Scholarship for Disabled Students
 Rosalie Jean Bertram Endowed Scholarship
 Rudolf and Fannie Susman Scholarship
 ∞ Rusty Crick Women's Volleyball Scholarship
 ∞ Ruth Powell Hutchins Water Center Endowment
 ∞ Ryan Teixeira Endowed Baseball Scholarship
 S. Victor Wagler Scholarship

— continued on page 14

1925 Society

COLORADO MESA UNIVERSITY
FOUNDATION

continued from page 13

- ∞ S.N. Wagler Scholarship
Sander Family Endowed Scholarship
- ∞ Sandra Hays Sells Memorial Endowed Scholarship
Sandy Bacon Memorial Scholarship
Shear Family Energy Management/Landman
Program Endowed Scholarship
Shear Family MSI Endowed Scholarship
- ∞ Shear, Inc. MSI Endowment
Slavens Endowed Fund
Sodexo Student Leadership and Service
Recognition Award
Stanley E and Ruth M T Johnson Family
Endowed Scholarship
Stephen Smith Women In Landman/Energy
Management Endowed Scholarship
Steven J. Rekemeyer Scholarship
- ∞ Strnad Family Nursing Scholarship
- ∞ Strobl Fiscus Scholarship Endowment
T.R. Braithwaite Scholarship
- ∞ Ted and Maxine Albers Scholarship
The Moore Family Scholarship
- ∞ The Schakel Family Scholarship for
Men's Basketball
- ∞ Tilman and Pat Bishop Endowed Scholarship
- ∞ Tom Mourey Annual Computer Science/
Mathematics Award
Velva Carnes Scholarship
- ∞ VFW Post and Auxiliary 3981 Memorial Scholarship
Viola and Linden Moberly Scholarship
- ∞ Warren Winiarski Viticulture and
Enology Scholarship
- ∞ Warren Winiarski-Gerald Ivancie Viticulture and
Enology Institute
Wells Fargo MSI Endowment
Western Colorado Contractors Association
(WCCA) Scholarship
Western Colorado Energy Scholar Endowment
Western Colorado NAWIC Scholarship
Whitewater Building MSI Endowed Scholarship
William and Mai Robinson Lecture Fund
- ∞ William Eli and Wanda Wray Putnam Scholarship
- ∞ William H. Love Engineering Endowment
WESCOGA Chevron Energy Scholar Award
WESCOGA Heifner-Kennedy Family Energy
Scholar Endowment

NEWLY ESTABLISHED ENDOWMENTS



Cutter Endowed Aviation Scholarship

Alumnus Bob Cutter generously established his second endowed scholarship. This endowment provides support to students enrolled in the Aviation Technology - Fixed Wing Program at Western Colorado Community College. In this program, students earn an Associate of Applied Science and FAA certification as a private pilot, commercial pilot with an instrument rating and as a flight instructor. This scholarship is the first named scholarship specifically supporting students enrolled in the two-year Associate of Applied Science Fixed Wing program.

Foster Alumni Mentor – Sylvia Aynn Richards Memorial Scholarship

This endowment was established by the Foster Alumni Mentors, a local not-for-profit organization, that promotes the educational pursuits of foster youth after they have aged-out of the foster care system. The Foster Alumni Mentors was founded by Kimberly Raff who aged out of foster care and went on to attend and graduate from CMU. This scholarship aims to build community, support and confidence for foster youth as they navigate higher education and reach for their dreams. It is named in memory of an alumna of the foster program who was taken too soon.



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DISTINGUISHED MAVERICKS

One faculty member and a select handful of alumni are honored each fall with CMU's most prestigious awards. They take their place among dozens of other stand-out professors, and former students and athletes who have received these accolades. They are recognized for the exceptional work they have done in the fields of scholastics, business, athletics, humanitarian aid and community service. This year's recipients are Distinguished Faculty Justin Gollob, PhD, Distinguished Alumni Matt Rissell, Distinguished Alumni Kimberly Raff, Hall of Honoree Charles Dukes and Hall of Honoree Jeff Tootle.

A PASSION FOR POLITICS

Justin Gollob, PhD

By Kelsey Coleman

Justin Gollob, PhD, is a subject matter expert and professor of political science who teaches the next generation as well as the broader community about the importance of being informed consumers of politics and effective producers of political information.

His love of the subject has wound its way into nearly every facet of his life, from cooking Sunday dinners while tuning into C-SPAN to speaking with journalists on topics that involve Colorado's Third Congressional District.

When talking about political science, Gollob classifies it as a Frankenstein subject of sorts.

"It's a study of people, policy, nations, war and peace, cultures — it really is a very encompassing discipline," said Gollob. "What holds it together is our rigor of how we approach asking and answering questions."

Every semester, Gollob finds one question bubbles to the top in his classes: Has there ever been times in history like this? His answer — yes and no.

Because politics change, and societal and economic focuses ebb and flow, political science is ever-evolving. This, Gollob said, is what makes the subject fun to study.

Gollob has a diverse media diet where he looks at multiple perspectives, which allows him to bring an array of unique perspectives to the classroom for discussion. His research focuses on issues related to state and local government, legislatures, public policy, elections, federalism and public land management.



Gollob earned his Bachelor of Science in Political Science from Idaho State University and went on to earn his Master of Arts and Doctorate in Political Science from Temple University. For his continued love of learning and contagious passion for the political process, Gollob was named the 2022 CMU Distinguished Faculty.

"I'm honored to have been recognized by my colleagues, and I look forward to continuing to serve the campus and students in the years ahead," said Gollob. •



Justin Gollob, PhD, professor of political science

DISTINGUISHED MAVERICKS

A TECH START-UP SUCCESS

Matt Rissell, '99

By Katlin Birdsall

Growing up in Grand Junction, Matt Rissell thought he wanted to work for the Colorado Division of Wildlife. After his dad encouraged him to shadow a game warden, Rissell learned that such a solitary profession was not for him. He thrives on human connection. He went on to assemble and lead extraordinary teams, launching six successful start-ups.

He specifically credits two of his CMU professors with fostering his entrepreneurial spirit and unconventional way of approaching projects.

"Some of the most memorable moments were with Dr. Mormon and Dr. Hatten," Rissell said. "They encouraged me at whatever was important to me, and at the time I was focused on non-profits. Their encouragement allowed me to take ownership for my dreams ... and made a massive impact on my life."

Three days after graduating with a Bachelor of Business Management, Rissell moved to Boise, Idaho, where he served as a youth pastor. He then went on to raise money for startups in the 1999 dot-com bubble until it burst. Then he went to work for Verizon Wireless and became the youngest major account manager and the #1 salesman in the U.S.

Rissell then decided to roll the dice and launched his first start-up, Cartridge World. After building it to four locations and 35 employees, he developed time tracking software to better manage his 35 employees. This software became the basis of another start-up, TSheets, which Intuit purchased for \$340 million in 2018.

Rissell shared his failures and successes as the keynote speaker of CMU's 2019 Entrepreneurship Day. His accomplishments and willingness to give back to CMU



are just a few of the reasons he is a 2022 Distinguished Alumni.

"I'm a huge believer in this university and the opportunity it provides to young adults. It's an incredible honor to represent a school that I hold in very high esteem," said Rissell.

Now as the CEO of Rissell Family Enterprises, he has more time for his wife and three children. He continues to inspire entrepreneurs through service on three boards, investing in privately held companies and by contributing to business publications. •



Matt Rissell was the keynote speaker at the 2019 Entrepreneurship Day at Colorado Mesa University.

DISTINGUISHED MAVERICKS

BRIGHTER FUTURES FOR FOSTER YOUTH

Kimberly Raff, '08

By Kelsey Coleman

Kimberly Raff grew up without the stability of a safe and supportive family. Amid the chaos of her parents' addictions, Raff was constantly moving.

"We would live in our car," remembers Raff. "At one point, we lived in a tent in Unaweep Canyon. But the drinking and drugs got so bad again that I went to live with cousins in Seattle."

She attended six different middle schools in almost as many states, was homeless and lived with multiple foster families.

On June 4, 1995, Raff graduated high school and officially aged out of the foster care system. She was 17 years old and left with nowhere to go.

"My mom taught me everything not to do, so I did the opposite," said Raff.

Juggling three different jobs to support herself, Raff's work ethic impressed her employers at Dairy Queen. They saw a brighter future for her than she had been able to imagine.

"I was so busy just trying to survive, that school wasn't an option. Thankfully, Tony and Marie helped me apply and walked me through all the steps," Raff said.

It took 12 years, but she earned a bachelor's degree in psychology with an emphasis in counseling.



"I look back and I don't know where I would be if I had not gone to school. CMU gave me a sense of purpose."

In 2017, Raff formed a nonprofit organization called Foster Alumni Mentors, to give other local kids that sense of purpose along with a solid support network invested in their success.

John and Angela Hildebrand, along with countless donors raised \$25,000 to establish the Sylvia Aynn Richards Memorial Scholarship, the first CMU endowment dedicated to foster youth.

"This endowment came to life in just eight months. It truly is amazing to see our community come together for foster care youth," Raff said. •



Above: Alumni Kimberly Raff and husband, Danny Raff ('09). Left: John Hildebrand, Kimberly Raff and Robin Brown at the check presentation for the Foster Alumni Mentors Sylvia Aynn Richards Memorial Scholarship.

DISTINGUISHED MAVERICKS

POWER OF CONNECTION AND COMMUNITY

Charles Dukes, '05

By Kelsey Coleman

As a first-generation student and collegiate athlete, Charles Dukes learned many life lessons during his time at Colorado Mesa University. While studying political science and repping the number four on his football jersey, Dukes discovered the importance of community, letting go of ego and the true meaning of teamwork.

"We played together, we battled together, we traveled together, we won and lost, we cried and we shared successes, and that stuff carries with you," said Dukes.

More often it is the quarterback and running backs, like Dukes, who get all the attention for scoring touchdowns. But Dukes knows better than



Charles Dukes has dedicated his professional and personal life to helping students succeed.



most that, "you can't score touchdowns without 11 people on the offense doing everything right."

Dukes' humility allowed him to experience campus as it is, a place to find connection and a sense of purpose.

Since graduating, Dukes has dedicated both his professional and personal life to helping students succeed at college and in their careers. He serves as the director of social responsibility for Wend Collective and works to coordinate youth development opportunities to improve the world of education.

"I want others to experience what it's like to be in a community that cares. I didn't know what that looked like till going to Colorado Mesa," said Dukes, who recalls going back to campus years later to find his Spanish teacher from freshmen year still knew him by name.

Today, Dukes also gives of his time to the institution serving as a CMU Board of Trustee. He resides on the Front Range with his wife, Cristal, and children Chloe, Cyrus and Camryn. •

DISTINGUISHED MAVERICKS

DREAMS CAME TRUE: NFL AND FATHERHOOD

Jeff Tootle, 1980–1984

By Katlin Birdsall

As most “military brats” do, Jeff Tootle grew up moving frequently. Family and sports were his constants. No matter where he lived, Tootle ran track and played baseball, basketball and football. He was born in Salina, Kansas, and his family eventually made it to Colorado, where Tootle’s talent on the gridiron caught a CMU coach’s eye.

When offered a scholarship by then Head Football Coach Bob Cortese, Tootle jumped at the chance to play linebacker for CMU.

The resilience he cultivated starting over in new places so many times, and the work ethic he built in athletics were honed at CMU and took him to the next level. Tootle’s biggest dream was to be a good man and a good

father — and another big dream came true for him on the field along the way.

During his career at CMU, Tootle played a pivotal role in the Mavericks ascent from worst to first in the RMAC. Turning the 1980 3–6 record into a 7–1 record by 1983. His contributions helped the 1982 and 1983 football teams earn an induction into the RMAC Hall of Fame in July 2016.

Tootle was a two-time NAIA All-American, three-time All-RMAC and finished his career with 294 tackles. His 136 career solo tackles ranks him 10th in all-time program history.

“I just played the game,” Tootle said. “I don’t like blowing my own horn.”



He never paid much attention to these impressive accolades and stats, but the NFL did. Tootle was recruited into the professional league and played for the New York Giants and Indianapolis Colts for a short stint.

Then it was time to circle back to his biggest dream of starting a family. Today he spends most of his time with his five children and significant other.

The Tootles will attend the Homecoming festivities and celebrate his Hall of Honoree award this fall.

“It is quite the honor. I didn’t think anybody noticed. I’m very fortunate,” said Tootle •



1982 CMU football team; Jeff Tootle, #32, is in the top row, third from the right.




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