YOU ELEVATE EXCELLENCE

2023 NAU FOUNDATION ANNUAL REPORT

TEINWAY & SO

NORTHERN ARIZONA UNIVERSITY F O U N D A T I O N

\$53,600,219 LARGEST FUNDRAISING YEAR IN NAU HISTORY

365 days of impact



1,887 first-time donors 1,648

consecutive years

9,423 donors gave under \$1,000



\$100 median gift





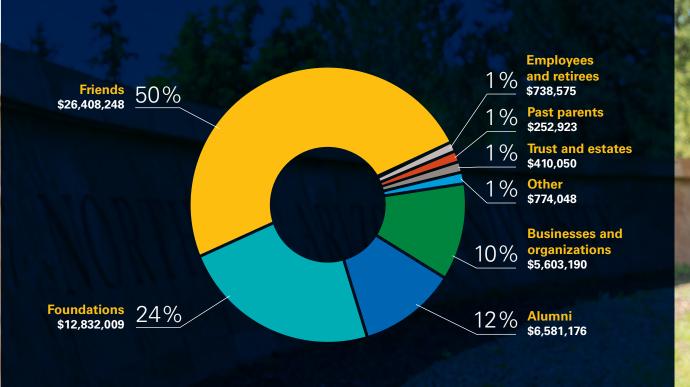
donors for 5+

4,448 gifts

\$6,581,176 given by alumni

3,187 donors

WHO INVESTED IN THE NAU FOUNDATION?





Together, we succeed

hrough the collective impact of supporters like you, the NAU Foundation achieved another record fundraising year. Each gift, action, and Axe of Kindness strengthens NAU's distinctive excellence, empowering students to achieve their ambitions. Throughout this report, you will see how your impact directly correlates to NAU's strategic priorities, elevating excellence for all.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Northern Arizona University sits at the base of the San Francisco Peaks, on homelands sacred to Native Americans throughout the region. We honor their past, present, and future generations, who have lived here for millennia and will forever call this place home.

Lumberjacks are collaborative, caring, hardworking, and forward-thinking. This is demonstrated by the record accomplishments that are positively impacting our university, including an extraordinary fundraising year.

> Through the intentionality of your efforts, we are broadening participation in postsecondary education, supporting student success, and improving postcollege outcomes.

I hope you are as inspired as I am by the stories of possibility, aspirations becoming reality, and the newfound confidence to conquer real-world challenges—which wouldn't be possible without your support. Thank you for elevating excellence.



José Luis Cruz Rivera, NAU President



Nick Lobejko, NAU Foundation Chief Executive Officer

Whether you gave your time, talent, treasure, or testimony this year, you are pivotal to the NAU Foundation's success. Because of you, we are transforming lives, enriching communities, and forging a path toward educational preeminence that capitalizes on NAU's 123-year history.



Propelling academic excellence

H igh-quality academic programs and experiential learning opportunities prepare NAU students for a meaningful life and thriving career. Your investment in this strategic priority ensures that bold aspirations for the future are achievable, equipping Lumberjacks with the knowledge and skills for professional success.



Leading the quest for a healthier Arizona, Lillian Smith, PhD, joined NAU this fiscal year as dean of the College of Health and Human Services.

EQUIPPING ARIZONA WITH SOUGHT-AFTER NURSES

As one of the best nursing programs in the country, the NAU School of Nursing equips students with the resources they need to meet the challenges and significant healthcare shortages in Arizona.

Established in 1962, NAU's nursing program has grown and evolved over the years. Now with a statewide campus presence, the program is dedicated to providing students across Arizona with the learning environment they need to thrive while providing high-quality healthcare services to individuals and underserved communities.

This year, NAU received funding to expand its accelerated nursing program to the Phoenix North Valley campus to help bolster a new healthcare workforce in the state of Arizona. The 12-month accelerated program is designed for students with an existing bachelor's degree in a field outside of nursing. Once students finish the program, they are eligible to take the National Council Licensure Examination for registered nurses (NCLEX-RN). The goal is to graduate more nurses more quickly to facilitate their entry into the workforce.

"NAU is on the forefront of tackling our extreme nursing shortages," said Janina Johnson, executive director of NAU's School of Nursing. "The expansion of our accelerated nursing program to North Valley is one example of how we are working to get more practice-ready nurses from all backgrounds into the Arizona communities that desperately need them."

To propel this initiative, the NAU School of Nursing received a \$6.4 million grant from the State of Arizona, a portion of which provides full-tuition scholarships to students enrolled in the accelerated Bachelor of Nursing program. Students who accept the scholarship must serve as registered nurses for four years in Arizona.

The state is not the only one getting behind this essential program; Arizona community partner, the Diane and Bruce Halle Foundation, is also helping to grow the nursing program. Through their generosity, NAU's School of Nursing is expanding experiential learning and clinical placement opportunities while bringing healthcare resources to rural and underserved communities throughout Arizona.

A pivotal role in this expansion is hiring a director of clinical site engagement who will be responsible for developing and maintaining clinical site access for the nursing program, expediting the site coordination process. This generous gift from the Halle Foundation provides travel stipends for nursing students and other allied health programs, expanding the number of key clinical placements for students while providing an influx of qualified applicants to Arizona communities. With more opportunities to travel to rural parts of the state, NAU nursing students will participate in high-impact learning opportunities preparing them for a successful healthcare career.

NAU'S IMPACT ON HEALTHCARE

In the last five years, nearly 6,000 health professionals graduated from the NAU College of Health of Human Services (CHHS).

In 2023, CHHS served 4,644 students and offered 26 degree and certificate programs.

Also in 2023, NAU celebrated 10 years of exceptional healthcare education programs at the Phoenix Bioscience Core (PBC)—the second-largest NAU campus in Arizona.

Enrollment at the PBC is projected to grow more than 20 percent from 2023–2026.



Hands-on learning in the Yuma School of Nursing SIM Lab.



A NEW FELLOWSHIP TO ELEVATE IMPACT

Wanting to create a gift as special and unique as her late husband, Harriet Young, PhD, a former professor in NAU's political science department, established the Dr. Richard D. Young Hispanic & Emerging Communities Faculty Fellowship to honor the life and legacy of Richard D. Young, PhD.

"Richard was a broad-minded humanitarian, immensely funny, and an empathetic person," said Harriet. "As an early developer of decision-making artificial intelligence, I wanted his incredible work to be memorialized. This fellowship is something I wanted to establish to honor him and enable someone to do great, meaningful work."

As the NAU Foundation's first endowed faculty fellowship, the Dr. Richard D. Young Hispanic & Emerging Communities Faculty Fellowship advances NAU's designation as a Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSI), supporting research on the Hispanic and emerging communities in Arizona. Leading the research in this elite position is Stephen Nuño-Perez, PhD, professor in NAU's College of Social and Behavioral Sciences Department of Politics and International Affairs.

"Harriet and I share a concern around Latines and emerging communities being prepared for the workforce," said Stephen. "We wanted to develop a space where students can learn about the world, access data, and conduct research driven by their passions and interests."

Gifts like Harriet's elevate impact across the university by increasing resources for Latine student research for Hispanic and emerging communities. Through Stephen's teaching excellence, students are learning about the political system and understanding the valuable role they have as informed citizens building sustainable careers that will continue to transform the American fabric.

"There are not a lot of Hispanic PhDs out there, and I feel a responsibility for my community and family to afford more students similar opportunities to what I have been given. At this point in my career, I want to help raise others and give them opportunities to excel," said Stephen.

"And Stephen is the shoulders on which these students will stand," Harriet added.



SPOTLIGHTING THE VALUE OF AN NAU EDUCATION

In October, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation pledged \$500,200 to the NAU Equitable Postsecondary Value Learning Opportunity fund. Energized by NAU's innovative work as a national leader in the postsecondary value movement, the Gates Foundation has helped launch and will study the impact of the NAU-led Arizona Attainment Alliance (A++). A++ is a signature effort that brings together NAU, the state's ten community college districts, and the Arizona Commerce Authority to strengthen and optimize Arizona's postsecondary ecosystem through cross-institutional approaches to promote attainment, success, and prosperity.

Bill Gates, co-chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and Microsoft co-founder, received an honorary doctorate and was a keynote speaker at NAU's spring commencement ceremony. In his speech to College of the Environment, Forestry and Natural Sciences and College of Engineering, Informatics, and Applied Sciences graduates, he impressed the lifelong value of a college degree in powering economic and social mobility—an area of focus for the Gates Foundation. The Gates Foundation has been working since 2019 to tackle the issue of higher education value, to improve returns for students and families. His investment in and engagement with NAU reinforce his commitment to redefining the value of a college degree and demonstrate NAU's leadership as one of the nation's leading engines of opportunity.

"I believe more people should know about the tremendous value of an NAU education," said Gates during his commencement speech. "You are graduating from an institution that creates opportunity, fosters innovation, and builds community, and it has prepared you to find solutions to some of the biggest problems facing us today."

Learn more about what drew Gates to NAU and read his full commencement speech at **gatesnotes.com/NAU-Commencement-Speech** or scan the QR code.



Bill Gates receives an honorary doctoral degree at NAU's spring commencement ceremony.



THE NAU KITT SCHOOL OF MUSIC ACHIEVES ALL-STEINWAY SCHOOL DESIGNATION

After 15 years of support from NAU Foundation donors and friends, the NAU Kitt School of Music earned the prestigious designation of an All-Steinway School. With more than 90 percent of the school's pianos designed by Steinway & Sons, a company dedicated to making world-class pianos for 170 years, NAU joins more than 200 elite schools throughout the world to receive this recognition.

"Having access to Steinway pianos allows me to practice and perform on high-quality instruments," said graduate student Taylor Glomb, '24, Master of Music in Performance. "I play and take lessons on instruments that push me as a musician to be better each day."



Having access to Steinway pianos allows me to practice and perform on high-quality instruments.



The Kitt School of Music's fundamental mission is to provide every music student with the highest quality experiences and instruments. The school launched the All-Steinway School initiative to propel academic excellence and provide a distinctive, high-quality educational experience that transforms the lives of each student.

Becoming an All-Steinway School was possible through the collective generosity and foresight of many NAU Foundation donors. NAU is especially grateful to NAU Foundation Board member Don Brooks, '76, and his wife, Sally Brooks, a member of NAU's Arts and Letters Advisory Council, for their unwavering support and commitment to this achievement. The genesis of Don and Sally's budding interest in the All-Steinway Initiative project was their daughter, Lori Raya, '10. She sang in the choir, where she met her nowhusband, Jason Raya.

Thanks to the Brooks family and fellow donors Mike and Karen Kitt; Carol Lindsay, '61; Tom and Lucretia Patrick; Don and Marena Hales; Kevin Baltzell, '82; Joni Haug, '78, '89; and Dave Shaffer and Donna Weistrop, the All-Steinway School initiative is now a reality. To learn more about this achievement, visit **foundationnau.org/steinway**. W.E.B. Du Bois Emerging Scholars Fellowship Award provides students

\$5,000

for conducting research, creative scholarship, or an innovative project under the guidance of a faculty mentor.

CHAMPIONS FOR EQUITABLE EXCELLENCE

To foster and advance inclusive excellence at NAU, NAU President José Luis Cruz Rivera, PhD, and Rima Brusi, PhD, established the W.E.B. Du Bois Emerging Scholars Fellowship Award. With a focus on leveraging the teacher-scholar model, the award increases opportunities for diverse students to engage in mentored research, scholarly work, internships, and creative activities.

Reinforcing *NAU 2025 – Elevating Excellence*, the W.E.B. Du Bois Emerging Scholars Fellowship Award is an important vehicle for driving transformative learning opportunities. Targeted toward undergraduate students enrolled full-time

Our goal with this gift is to equitably broaden participation and improve post-college outcomes for undergraduate students of all backgrounds, identities, and lived experiences.

from historically underrepresented backgrounds (especially those who identify as Black or African American), the award provides \$5,000 for conducting research, creative scholarship, or an innovative project under the guidance of a faculty mentor. Awardees may use the funds for research-related supplies, equipment, books, professional development, and internships.

"Our goal with this gift is to equitably broaden participation and improve post-college outcomes for undergraduate students of all backgrounds, identities, and lived experiences," said President Cruz Rivera. "This award ensures we are advancing interdisciplinary knowledge to drive impactful scholarship while stewarding accessible educational opportunities for Lumberjacks."



President Cruz Rivera poses with students on NAU Giving Day.

new scholarships created in FY23

contributions to scholarships

1,611 gifts to scholarships

15

some type of financial aid

of NAU students receive

95%

2,487 scholarships awarded

Fostering student success

Y our support is broadening access by creating pathways for students to afford higher education. Infused with NAU's student-centered culture, each scholarship, grant, and volunteer hour improves retention rates and increases educational attainment for Lumberjacks. Together, we are setting students up for success at NAU and beyond.



9.482

NAU-Yavapai College students celebrate success with a high five.

CREATING THE ARIZONA COLLEGE EXCELLENCE INITIATIVE

Thanks to a \$3.8 million grant from the Helios Education Foundation, matched by \$3.8 million from the NAU Foundation, the Arizona College Excellence (ACE) initiative was created to help community college students persist, transfer to NAU, and graduate prepared for personal and professional success.

ACE is a comprehensive effort to support community college students and includes \$2.2 million in direct scholarship funding to students at partner community colleges. The initiative is integrated into NAU's Arizona Attainment Alliance (A++) ecosystem approach to statewide educational attainment in partnership with five colleges throughout the state that primarily serve rural and tribal communities:

- Arizona Western College
- Coconino Community College
- Diné College
- Mohave Community College
- Northland Pioneer College

Through the multi-institutional partnership, ACE will provide extensive support and resources to facilitate student success by expanding access to students in rural and tribal communities who begin their postsecondary journey at a local community college.

"The ACE initiative aligns with our mission to expand postsecondary enrollment and completion in Arizona," said Paul J. Luna, president and CEO of the Helios Education Foundation. "We are proud to partner with NAU on this at a time when there's an urgent need in Arizona to improve education outcomes. We also look forward to broadening our reach in northern and rural parts of the state through this initiative."

In addition to robust scholarship funding—available for up to three years of students' community college journey—ACE also will facilitate increased student outreach, communication, and support;



create clear academic pathways that lead to positive career outcomes; and provide significant financial resources, such as summer stipends and funds that help students' basic needs to realize their personal and professional aspirations.

"As NAU and A++ advance the crucial work of meeting the state's attainment imperative, ensuring that talented students can meet their full potential and participate in the booming economic growth we are experiencing in Arizona, the ACE initiative directly addresses barriers to retention and success for students and ensures they can successfully transfer from a community college to NAU," said Jonathan Gagliardi, vice president for economic mobility and social impact at NAU. "Through ACE, NAU and our partners are taking meaningful action to redesign educational experiences and support structures to center equitable access and attainment, impactful workforce outcomes, and upward mobility."

The ACE initiative launched in summer 2023, with initial students enrolling and receiving scholarships in spring 2024.



CREATING PATHWAYS FOR NAU HONORS STUDENTS

Taking a student-first approach, the Garcia Family Foundation is creating pathways and broadening access for underrepresented communities to receive a high-quality education from the NAU Honors College. By establishing the Garcia Family Honors Scholars Program, the amount of need-based scholarship assistance currently available to NAU Honors students nearly doubles, giving even more students the opportunity for an enriching collegiate experience.

The program, derived from student feedback and their request for more flexfunding opportunities, provides significant need-based scholarship funding renewable for up to four years. Scholars will have a highly personalized academic experience, including specialized academic and career resources, and an opportunity to participate in one of the Honors College's signature domestic or international service programs that give back to the community and build global leadership skills.

"We hope this scholarship allows students to engage more holistically in their education and personal development without the pressure of having to work or find other means to cover expenses," said Jon Ehlinger, president of the Garcia Family Foundation. "We would like to see students invest that time back in their educational journey and involvement at NAU instead of worrying about financial burdens."

Thanks to the Garcia Family Honors Scholars Program, the Garcia Family Foundation is easing the financial burden of receiving an undergraduate education while inspiring learning and providing educational access for students.



Students in the Global Citizens Project Scholars study abroad program in rural Ecuador.



BOOSTING MOMENTUM FOR FEMALE STEM STUDENTS

Having worked in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and/ or mathematics) for nearly two decades, Sandi Hemmingsen, '91, empowers female Lumberjacks to embark on a similar career trajectory. From serving in the US Navy, to owning a bookstore, to leading teams at a nuclear power plant, Sandi has been breaking gender-influenced barriers and thriving in a male-dominated field of engineering.

To open doors for fellow NAU STEM students, Sandi established the Women Taking Flight Scholarship in hopes of shifting the workforce demographic and creating more space for female engineers. The scholarship provides one female student in STEM \$1,000 a year for four years.

"Throughout my career, I noticed a lot of STEM fields lacked a female presence," said Sandi. "Women see the world differently and bring a wealth of perspectives to the industry. I wanted a way to support women in their choices to be in this field and empower them to cross any financial hurdles they might be experiencing."

Sandi hopes her scholarship will be a catalyst for giving female Jacks the confidence and support they need to succeed. "By supporting women, I believe that we are helping support everyone in the STEM field," she shared. By supporting women, I believe that we are helping support everyone in the STEM field.





HRM students with industry chefs at Flagstaff local restaurant, Shift.

ADVANCING CULINARY ARTS FOR HRM STUDENTS

Established in memory of the late Chef Tomaso Maggiore, The Tomaso Maggiore Culinary Arts Foundation created a scholarship to financially support NAU students in the School of Hotel and Restaurant Management (SHRM). Combining a passion for the culinary industry and fostering learning opportunities for students, the partnership creates pathways for students to succeed in the restaurant business.

As the number one hospitality management school in Arizona, the SHRM equips students with the skills to thrive in an ever-changing work environment. Through experiential learning opportunities, students develop the characteristics valued most by future hospitality employers: flexibility, adaptability, and resiliency.

Thanks to The Tomaso Maggiore Culinary Arts Foundation Scholarship, one junior and one senior HRM student will receive funding for expenses not already covered by other aid. Funding can be used for tuition, fees, books, supplies, and other living expenses, allowing students to focus on their curriculum instead of financial burdens.

"We are committed to helping the next generation have access to higher education, inclusive learning opportunities, and pathways to careers and success while supporting students pursuing their passion for the culinary arts," said Flora Tersigni, partner at The Maggiore Group.



STUDENT CLUBS BOLSTERED DURING AXE OF KINDNESS MONTH

In fall 2022, 19 student clubs and organizations participated in NAU Axe of Kindness Month, building connections and developing essential skills while raising money. By leveraging Jacksfunder—the NAU Foundation's digital crowdfunding platform and fundraising tool—student clubs raised a grand total of \$30,235 for their research, equipment, and initiatives.

"Our goal is to educate, engage, and empower students," said Debra Floyd, '13, student philanthropy manager. "Through this experiential learning opportunity, NAU students build and hone networking, communications, and project management skills while leading a month-long digital fundraising project on Jacksfunder."

From the Flagstaff Mountain Campus to the Phoenix Bioscience Core, student groups worked closely with the NAU Foundation to plan, build, and launch digital fundraising campaigns specific to their group's needs, such as connecting students with industry professionals, purchasing supplies, and funding experiential trips or projects.

Thin Air, a graduate-student-run literary magazine, found support for its editors to gain professional experience and organize community reading events. The WindJax Energy Club raised funds for students participating in the national Collegiate Wind and Hydropower competitions put on by the US Department of Energy. The newly formed Skate Club uses donations to purchase equipment for newcomers and develop plans for a future skatepark.

These clubs and more are driving community engagement to empower fellow Jacks. Learn more about Jacksfunder projects at **crowdfund.foundationnau.org**.

] month

19 student groups

\$**30,235**

raised to support student clubs and organizations

2023 Axe of Kindness Month participants

Abaya Yala*

American Society of Mechanical Engineers

Axecidentals A Cappella*

Circle K International

Korean Language and Culture Club

Lumberjack Marching Band*

NAU Club Baseball*

Occupational Therapy*

PiTheta Epsilon Delta Xi chapter*

PRISM NAU

Psychology Club and Psi Chi Honor Society

Racquetball Club

Skate Club

Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers*

Student Health Advocacy Committee

Student Occupational Therapy Association of NAU

Thin Air magazine

WindJax Energy Club

Women Who Compute

*Club met its fundraising goal and received a LumberjacksThrive grant to further support its projects.



900 Indigenous students

attend NAU

Native Nations and tribes are represented at NAU

92 scholarships available to Indigenous students

Demonstrating a commitment to Indigenous Peoples

NAU sits on sacred lands and is dedicated to promoting knowledge and understanding of the sovereignty of Indigenous Nations and Indigenous Peoples. When you give to this university priority, you are advancing culturally responsive programming and promoting Indigenous community engagement, positioning NAU as the leading university serving Indigenous Peoples.



Ann Marie Chischilly, vice president for Native American Initiatives at NAU.

DEVELOPING THE SEVEN GENERATIONS SIGNATURE INITIATIVE

Long recognized as one of the nation's foremost institutions serving Indigenous students, NAU was awarded a transformational \$5 million grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, matched by an additional \$5 million investment from the NAU Foundation, to develop and implement the Seven Generations Signature Initiative (7GSI) over the next three years.

7GSI is composed of a portfolio of initiatives that will build on existing areas of excellence and elevate NAU's impact as one of the nation's leading universities serving Indigenous Peoples. The initiatives in 7GSI include:

- Elevating Indigenous scholarship
- Strengthening partnerships
- Propelling Indigenous student success

"Over the next three years, thanks to the support of our partners at the Mellon Foundation and the NAU Foundation, NAU will launch exceptional programs and initiatives that amplify Indigenous voices and perspectives and contribute to student success," said Ann Marie Chischilly, vice president for Native American Initiatives at NAU. "I'm excited to be a part of these efforts that will deliver on the university's commitment to Indigenous Peoples and serve as a model for others throughout the country."

7GSI, coupled with the university's expansion of the Access2Excellence program, which now provides full tuition coverage for members of Arizona's 22 federally recognized tribes, ensures an affordable, enriching, and exceptional academic experience for all Indigenous students.



Over the next three years, NAU will launch exceptional programs and initiatives that amplify Indigenous voices.

"NAU's new and comprehensive initiatives to infuse curricula with Indigenous ways of knowing as well as to expand its faculty who can teach Native topics is bold, inspiring, and necessary," said Armando Bengochea, senior program officer for Higher Learning at Mellon. "It is an institution increasingly primed for making great impacts on Native communities and Native knowledge."

"The NAU Foundation Board is thrilled to support the Seven Generations Signature Initiative at NAU," said David Franke, FY22–23 chair of the NAU Foundation Board of Directors. "We are inspired by President Cruz Rivera's clear vision for NAU that builds on the university's historic strengths, including its longstanding support of Indigenous communities and students. The Foundation Board is proud to strategically utilize our prudent investments to amplify the impact of the Mellon Foundation's contribution and power this important initiative that will positively impact so many students and scholars at NAU."



BUILDING A FUTURE FOR CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT STUDENTS

As a Flagstaff community member and past NAU parent, Chris Kemmerly made his first gift to NAU in 2023 after spending years working in the construction industry. As the owner of Miramonte Homes, a large part of Chris' company's workforce is Native American, so he created The Kemmerly Family Endowed Award for Native American Construction Management Students to provide funding to support Indigenous students in the construction management program.



"Construction management can be a very lucrative industry for students, and there is high demand for new graduates to join," said Chris. "I wanted a way to give back to the community while creating an opportunity to support Native American students."

One of the first students to receive this award is Journalism and Construction Management dual major, Jonah Graham, '24. Jonah's interest in construction started from a family tradition of helping people and giving back to the community.

"My grandfather was an electrician, and as we drove around our community, he would point out homes he worked on and would beam with pride he had for helping people," said Jonah. "He instilled in us to keep learning and get an education. He told me, 'You have big hands, and those big hands should go to helping people,' something to this day that is very important to me."

For Jonah, scholarships make earning an undergraduate degree possible. Thanks to the Kemmerly Award and others, he can focus on school and be an active member of *The Lumberjack*, NAU's student-produced newspaper, and other clubs on campus.

"To have someone care about Native Americans in an industry like this is huge," shared Jonah. "Awards like this are helping Indigenous People thrive, and I am so grateful and appreciative."



T'áá hó'ájitéégóó, t'éiyá. It's up to you; that's the way of it.

John W. Tippeconnic, 85; Indian-student 'pioneer'

the first Co nanches to acceive a bachelor of arts degree and reportedly the first Indian to receive a master's degree in Ari-zona, died May 2, 1987, at Chandler Regional Hospital. He was 85.

to topological days of the first indiant of wyoming, Arizona and New Mex-cora, died May 2, 1987, at Chandler legional Hospital. He was 85. Mr. Tippeconnic, of Albuquer-barre from Ottawa University in ansas in 1926 and master's degree om Northern Arizona University 1942. He was a member of Phi from Northern Arizona University As in 1942. He was a member of Phi Okia. Beta Kappa, an honorary education society at NAU.

He worked for 35 years for the Bureau of Indian Affairs as a teacher and principal in Oklahoma, Wyoming, Arizona and New Mex-

Bueler Mortuary made local arrangements.

HONORING A LEGACY WHILE INCREASING INDIGENOUS CONNECTIONS

A member of the Comanche Nation, John William Tippeconnic, '42, was the first Native American to receive a graduate degree from NAU. He valued education as a student, teacher, principal, and father and encouraged others to never stop learning. His legacy and educational commitment lives on at NAU through the John W. Tippeconnic Memorial Scholarship, established to support members of federally recognized tribes to earn undergraduate and graduate education degrees.



Melissa Wheeler, '23

Melissa Wheeler. '23. is one of the recipients to receive this scholarship. She is a Combined Counseling/School of Psychology PhD student who is paving the way as an educational leader. examining the use

of Native American culturally centered practices to prevent and treat substance abuse. As an Indigenous psychology student, she is shifting

the dynamic of Navajo representation in the field, creating a safe space to welcome and counsel Native Americans.

"There are less than 300 self-identified Native American psychologists in the US and less than 10 Navajo psychologists in Arizona," said Melissa. "I came to NAU because of the university's collaboration with tribal communities in northern Arizona and work towards growing that number."

Similar to John, Melissa's motivation comes from deep familial connections and ties to her Navajo community. Her mom and siblings are her cornerstone and strength throughout her educational journey, and her motivation stems from her commitment to improving lives.

"It's important to recognize the work I am doing is for the betterment of the community, not for me," shared Melissa. "I approach things from an Indigenous mindset about how I can give back. Embedded in my Navajo culture is a Diné saying, 'T'áá hó'ájitéégóó, t'éiyá.' That means, 'It's up to you; that's the way of it."



A LUMBERJACK-FOR-LIFE PAYING IT FORWARD

As sophomore class president in 1957, William Oates, MD, '59, didn't know his time at NAU would lead to a fruitful career in healthcare, working as an obstetrician-gynecologist (OB-GYN). Now retired in a small mountain town in Panama, William is grateful for the support he received from his alma mater. He is passing on the kindness to Lumberjacks through a blended gift to the NAU Foundation, establishing the Dr. William Oates Native American Health Sciences Endowed Scholarship.



From spending two years playing football to tutoring friends in biology, William built life-long friendships during his undergraduate days in Flagstaff. After graduation, he pursued medical school at the University of California, Los Angeles. He then spent a year interning and four years as an OB-GYN resident physician at Los Angeles County General Hospital. After his residency, he was called upon for active duty with the US Air Force, where he served three years at Ramey Air Force Base in Puerto Rico.

"Right before I finished school, I was drafted and sent to Puerto Rico to deliver babies at the base," said William. "I got into OB-GYN because I thought it was a happy specialty. It is the one area where one person goes into the hospital and, usually, two come out."

William went on to practice OB-GYN for over 44 years in Tucson, Arizona. Reflecting on his undergraduate days, William was impressed and inspired by his Native American peers at NAU. However, he noticed that not very many were pursuing careers in healthcare. He recognized the impact of the hurdles some of the Indigenous students experienced just to be able to attend school, so he created this scholarship to encourage Native American students to seek a future in healthcare.

"This gift is all about paying it forward," shared William. "When I was a student, people were so kind to me, and I want other students to have the same support I received."



PROMOTING HUALAPAI ROOTS THROUGH FORESTRY

Melvin Hunter Jr., '10, dedicates his time and career to promoting forestry, Native American advancement, and the importance of higher education. A member of the Hualapai Tribe, which means "People of the Tall Pines," Melvin is committed to maximizing his NAU education to advocate not only for forestry, but for his community.

Melvin's journey started with a career in civil engineering, but he realized it wasn't the place for him. After talking to his father, he learned about forestry and enrolled in NAU's School of Forestry to learn more about the environment.

Since then, Melvin has experienced a progressive career in the field, serving as the forestry and wildland fire management director for the Hualapai Tribe. During the pandemic, he also led and coordinated the tribe's COVID-19 response team.

As a two-time host mentor for the Lumberjacks Thrive Externship Program, Melvin remains connected to NAU, serving on the NAU Alumni Association Board of Directors, the School of Forestry Advisory Council, the Native American Advisory Board, and the Native American Recruitment and Retention Committee. In the fall of 2022, he was named the President's Alumni Award winner for the College of the Environment, Forestry, and Natural Sciences.

"Students today have options to move around and see new disciplines. Taking advantage of it builds a network between them and fellow NAU alums," said Melvin. "When students surround themselves with folks who want to see them succeed, they will continue to move forward and have the support they need to thrive." The Lumberjacks Thrive Externship Program, supported by donors Greg and Nancy Wilson, '82, connects alumni mentors with students to apply their learning beyond the classroom. Recruitment starts in January 2024. Visit foundationnau.org/ thrive-externship or scan the QR code to learn more.





Inspiring impactful scholarship

T hanks to you, Lumberjacks are provided transformative learning opportunities through hands-on research and service activities. They are equipped with the knowledge to help solve problems of regional, national, and global importance, advancing the university's mission in Arizona and beyond.



Tim Becker, professor of practice and director of the Bioengineering Devices Lab.

HANDS-ON LEARNING THROUGH RESEARCH

A sought-after method for transformative experiential learning, research helps contribute to interdisciplinary knowledge at NAU. Understanding the value of this impactful tool, Mickey Urdea, PhD, '74, the founder and partner of a biotechnology consulting firm in California, created the Dr. Mickey Urdea Collaborative Award to encourage interdisciplinary research-based collaborations among undergraduate Lumberjacks pursuing degrees in science, technology, engineering, and/or mathematics (STEM).

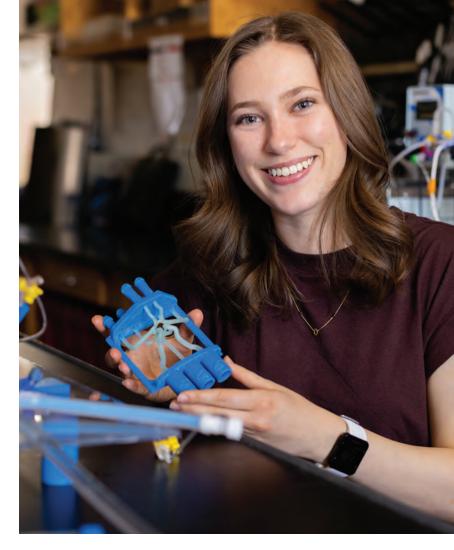
"Research traditionally can be siloed, where people focus on one area or thing," said Mickey. "I hope this award encourages collaboration among students so they can leverage their expertise and mirror real-world research situations."

One of the students to receive this award and demonstrate Mickey's goal for cross-collaboration across different disciplines is Exercise Physiology student Olivia Fisher, '23. She worked with undergraduate and graduate students in Tim Becker's Bioengineering Devices Lab to develop a portable blood flow model.

"Olivia built a device to model and simulate blood flow in the brain," said Tim, professor of practice in mechanical engineering and bioengineering director at NAU. "She was essential to getting the model to where it is now, which is used across two or three different studies and helps various students with their research."

The device is part of an ongoing project to build on stroke testing and prevention. With funding from the Urdea Award, Olivia used three-dimensional printing to develop the first model. Everything from the device, connectors, and the table, was customized to simulate a real-life patient's table used in an operating room.

"Receiving this grant was monumental and helped me approach research in a targeted



way," said Olivia. "My favorite part was the interdisciplinary experience. I learned how to approach a situation through the eyes of a mechanical engineer and was part of a collaborative lab and cohort that helped experiment and problem-solve in a way that is different from the classroom."

Building real-life solutions for people is part of the impact Olivia had in the lab. She gained scientific research and was part of the STEM field while working toward her undergraduate degree. Because of donors like Mickey, Olivia and fellow grant students are prepared for industry jobs and can be ambassadors for collaborative research opportunities in their fields.

Olivia has her sight set on grad school and NAU's Physical Therapy program after she graduates in the fall. "Being young and having this type of work experience is wonderful," Olivia shared. "I am happy to be a part of it, and I have a huge amount of gratitude for this opportunity."



Advancing mission-driven and diverse faculty and staff

NAU is committed to supporting the recruitment, retention, and development of highly qualified, mission-driven faculty and staff. Your support fosters meaningful relationships between faculty, staff, and students; promotes academic success; and strengthens NAU's workforce.



LEADING RESEARCH FOR ATHLETIC TRAINING

Combining her passions for sports and healthcare, Monica Lininger, PhD, joined NAU in 2014 to advance the Athletic Training program. At that time, NAU was a leader in meeting the national mandate of changing athletic training education, pivoting from a bachelor's to a master's degree program. She started teaching with the first cohort of master's students and has been with the program ever since.

In the beginning, her work consisted of researching collegiate student-athletes for injury prevention and risk. This year, she pivoted her research to collaborate with Associate Professor Hayley Root, PhD, in the Master of Science in Athletic Training program at the Phoenix Bioscience Core. Together they combined their interest in injury prevention in youth to evaluate and promote physical literacy among high school student-athletes.

"There are eight million student-athletes in high school. Of that, 500,000 are National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) student-athletes, and only six percent move forward in a structured athletic event," said Monica. "Our research consists of an exploratory study to assess physical literacy and implement strategies to reduce future injuries for student-athletes."

To help advance her scholarly work, Monica earned the prestigious designation of endowed professor in 2023. She is the first person named to the Del and Karen Steinbronn Professorship in the College of Health and Human Services.

This professorship not only elevates her research but also provides funding to promote student success in the Athletic Training program. Some of the funding will allow a cohort of students to attend the National Athletic Trainers' Association's annual meeting. The students who attend are from traditionally underrepresented communities and have the opportunity to network with industry professionals, preparing them for the workforce.

Monica's drive to work collectively to address the needs of her students, as well as support youth student-athletes in the community, sets her apart as a distinguished academic leader who is transforming the university's vision into meaningful action.

EMINENT SCHOLARS AND ENDOWED PROFESSORSHIPS

NAU requires extraordinary faculty to engage in impactful research, scholarship, and creative activities to provide transformative learning opportunities that solve problems of regional, national, and global relevance. The Eminent Scholars Program, managed by the Office of the Provost and the NAU Foundation, is a state-funded program designed to provide funding to match philanthropic investment for the recruitment and retention of eminent scholars.

College of Arts and Letters

Björn Krondorfer, PhD, Regents' Professor and Director, Martin-Springer Institute for Teaching the Holocaust, Tolerance, and Humanitarian Values*

Julie Piering, PhD, Richard A. Wood Philosophy Professorship, Philosophy Department*

Stoller-Grabe Endowed Distinguished Professorship in Applied Linguistics/Teaching English as a Second Language

College of Education

J. Lawrence Walkup Distinguished Professorship, Department of STEM Education

Nic Clement, PhD, Ernest W. McFarland Citizen's Chair in Education, Department of Educational Leadership*

Rose Marie Ylimaki, PhD, Del and Jewell Lewis Endowed Chair in Educational Leadership, Department of Educational Leadership*

College of Health and Human Services

Monica Lininger, PhD, Del and Karen Steinbronn Professorship in the College of Health and Human Services*

College of Social and Behavioral Sciences

Juliette Roddy, '89, PhD, The NARBHA Institute James Wurgler MD Chair of Criminal Justice and Behavioral Health, Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice*

College of the Environment, Forestry, and Natural Sciences

Bruce Hungate, PhD, Regents' Professor and Director, Frances B. McAllister Chair in Community, Culture, and Environment, Department of Biological Sciences*

Christine Regalla, PhD, Ernest Duebendorfer and Charles Barnes Structural Geology Professorship, School of Earth and Sustainability*

Duan Biggs, PhD, The Charles Olajos and Ted Goslow Chair for Southwestern Environmental Science and Policy, School of Earth and Sustainability*

Catherine Gehring, PhD, John and Pit Lucking Family Professorship in CEFNS, Department of Biological Sciences*

Paul Keim, '77, '13, PhD, Regents' Professor, Microbiology; Executive Director, Pathogen and Microbiome Institute, E. Raymond and Ruth Reed Cowden Chair, Department of Biological Sciences Pete Fulé, '90, '96, PhD, Regents' Professor, Charles O. and Mary Minor Endowed Professorship in Forestry, School of Forestry*

Sara K. Souther, PhD, Resolution Copper Emory Oak Restoration Project Endowed Professorship, School of Earth and Sustainability

Fred "Pete" Peterson and Christine Turner Endowed Professorship, School of Earth and Sustainability

Don Gilbert, PhD, Endowed Chair in Analytical Chemistry, Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry

Honors College

Morgan Vigil-Hayes, PhD, Wolf Gumerman Professorship in Honors, School of Informatics, Computing, and Cyber Systems*

The W.A. Franke College of Business

Jap Efendi, PhD, The W. A. Franke College of Business Endowed Professorship in Accounting, Department of Accounting, Economics, and Finance*

Farooq Malik, PhD, The W. A. Franke College of Business Endowment, Department of Accounting, Economics, and Finance*

Julie Mueller, PhD, Marley Professor of Business, Department of Accounting, Economics, and Finance

Chris Scherpereel, PhD, The W. A. Franke College of Business Endowment, Department of Information Systems, Management, and Marketing*

Brian Boyd, PhD, Chair, Ralph M. Bilby Endowed Chair, Department of Information Systems, Management, and Marketing

Joseph Little, PhD, The W. A. Franke College of Business Endowment, Department of Information Systems, Management, and Marketing

Susan Williams, PhD, Franke Professor in Business: The W. A. Franke College of Business Endowment, Department of Information Systems, Management, and Marketing

Jeremy Brees, PhD, The W. A. Franke College of Business Endowment, Department of Information Systems, Management, and Marketing

* These funds unlocked an additional \$1,642,852 through the Arizona Board of Regents Eminent Scholars Match program to supplement eligible, endowed faculty funds.



Enhancing community engagement

our philanthropic support is enhancing community engagement and broadening NAU's social impact. Whether through internships, immersive learning experiences, athletic events, or opportunities to connect with alumni, NAU is an active member of the Arizona community, increasing cultural and economic vitality.

HONORING HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS

Promoting the values of moral courage, empathy, reconciliation, and justice, NAU's Martin-Springer Institute enriches students and communities by working through a devastating past and sharing personal stories of Holocaust survivors.

Through support from the Molly Blank Fund, the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany, the family of G. Shanahan and Marc Dubowy, and donor contributions to the NAU Foundation, the Martin-Springer Institute seized the opportunity for enhanced Holocaust education in public schools by expanding teacher training through a captivating 17-day study trip to Poland and Germany. In June 2022, 20 Arizona teachers walked, step by step, in the footsteps of two Holocaust survivors: Doris Martin and Edward Gastfriend. Coordinated by the director of the Martin-Springer Institute, Regents' Professor Björn Krondorfer, PhD, and led by area experts and guides, participants relived experiences documented in Doris and Edward's memoirs, gaining an intimate look into their lives.



Through the vision realized by founders Ralph and Doris Martin and support from generous donors, the Martin-Springer Institute elevates awareness of the traumatic scope of the Holocaust, locally and internationally. Rooted in intercultural understanding and dialogue, the institute addresses current conflicts that exist in our society today, demonstrating a powerful testimony that we can learn from our past and shift the lens on how we see trauma and conflict in our world.

Read the complete story and learn more about how the institute is bridging opportunities for students and teachers to connect with Holocaust survivors by visiting **foundationnau.org/msi**.



A PHOTOGRAPHIC LEGACY COMES HOME TO NAU

David Muench has photographed some of the world's most spectacular landscapes in a career spanning more than six decades. His images and books have inspired countless landscape photographers and travelers while bringing meaning to his life.

"Photography is an extension of my eye," said David. "I see; therefore, I understand better. What I see and what I photograph is the timeless moment, that moment existing between past and future, that moment that is, in the photograph, eternal."

David's photographs will soon be positioned to provide timeless inspiration to the Arizona community thanks to donating his photographic legacy to Special Collections and Archives at NAU's Cline Library—one of the largest gifts in NAU's history.

"We're honored that David Muench has entrusted his life's work to NAU," said NAU President Cruz Rivera. "It has the potential to provide significant impacts across our strategic priorities, from educating students and informing researchers who will contribute to a more sustainable future, to engaging a global audience of people who share an appreciation for the wonders of our world and excellence in photography. We look forward to sharing it with the world."

The David Muench Photography Records is a magnificent addition to Cline Library Special Collections and Archives' visual materials holdings. Over the past three decades, Special Collections and Archives has become a locus of prominent American photographers. David's work joins other outstanding collections, including his father, Josef Muench, Tad Nichols, Emery Kolb, Bill Belknap, John Running, and Sue Bennett, '75. David's unique approach and perspective to photography will inspire students, photographers, and the broader research community. "I hope my work and way of seeing will inspire students to be creative in their response to the world around them," David said. "Because landscape photographers instinctively connect their inner sensibilities and feelings with the rhythms and visual shapes and forms of nature. I can imagine my images serving as a kind of communication with other photographers."



NAU GIVING DAY 2023

"WE are Lumberjacks!". This is the slogan for the fifth annual NAU Giving Day that set the stage for a day filled with Lumberjack pride. The collective generosity of alumni, parents, faculty, staff, students, and community supporters resulted in a record-breaking event. With the collective power of in-person and virtual participants, NAU Giving Day 2023 raised more than \$560,000 for scholarships, athletics, research, student organizations, academic programs, and more.

New this year were impact funds: six different curated NAU causes grouped by their impact

\$567,911 contributions on NAU Giving Day

 1,886 gifts
 1,439 donors

 30⁺
 91 gifts from students

 potential. Impact funds build momentum, so no matter the size of your gift, they compound with others to support the greatest needs. This year, the Essential Needs Impact Fund was the top fund with 115 gifts and ranked top three for overall funds supported on NAU Giving Day.

Another new element this year: university and community members celebrated the day's success with an after-party hosted by Mother Road Brewing Company, an alumni-led business in Flagstaff. The event unlocked a special challenge in honor of Route 66, unlocking \$9,000 in funds once 66 gifts were received.

Each Axe of Kindness demonstrates how the Lumberjack family turns one day of giving into 365 days of impact. For more information on NAU Giving Day, visit **givingday.foundationnau.org**.

SAVE THE DATE!

The next NAU Giving Day will be in April 2024.

NPR

AWARD-WORTHY NEWS COVERAGE

As a public service of Northern Arizona University, KNAU has been sharing quality National Public Radio (NPR) news and programming since 1983. In 2023, KNAU celebrated their 40th anniversary. From Kingman to Ganado and Grand Canyon Village to Page, KNAU coverage is tailored to the distinctive qualities of northern Arizona.

This year, KNAU was awarded three regional Edward R. Murrow Awards—among the most prestigious in news—which recognize local and national stories that exemplify the importance and impact of journalism as a service to the community. The winning stories were reported by Melissa Sevigny and Ryan Heinsius and edited by Gillian Ferris.

5,240 KNAU donors

5,706 gifts to KNAU



24.9 M

annual listening hours

REGIONAL MURROW AWARDS

anthe Public in Public Radi

Excellence in Writing

Apache elders fight to save the vanishing Emory oak

Emory oak trees in the Mogollon Rim country of Arizona have begun to disappear. Their loss means

the loss of a cherished tradition of the Apache people, who prize Emory oak acorns for food. Scan the QR code for the full story.



Excellence in Innovation

NASA sets its sights on the moon from training grounds in northern Arizona

NASA's Artemis program intends to return humans to the moon after a half-century hiatus. But first,

astronauts and engineers have to train and test lifesaving equipment here on Earth. Scan the QR code to learn more.



Excellence in Sound

The inevitable next time: Flagstaff residents grapple with the new reality of wildfire and flood

Climate change and extreme drought are causing fires to burn bigger, hotter, and spread faster than ever before, producing new dangers and upending life for thousands. And now the burn scars left

behind are causing flooding in neighborhoods that previously weren't flood-prone. Read the full story by scanning the QR code.



NAU IS A FAMILY AFFAIR

The self-proclaimed "Dorsey 5" is an inspiring family committed to paying it forward, thanks to the support and opportunities granted to them by NAU. Siblings and cousins Justin, '18; Brandon, '19; Brittni, '17, '19; Tommie, '19, '21; and Khalil Dorsey, '23, each have personal connections to the Lumberjack family and share their True Blue pride together.



The family's NAU journey started with Justin, followed by his brother Brandon, who played on the club baseball team. Their sister Brittni, who played volleyball for NAU, was next in line, and the first of the Dorsey 5 to receive a master's from NAU.

"I went on to be an EMT right after college," said Brandon. "Studying sociology and taking experiences from my time at NAU helped ensure

I was ready for my career, providing a good and well-rounded perspective of what I might experience on the job."

Khalil was the fourth Dorsey to embark on his NAU adventure, playing football and running track with NAU Athletics. He recently finished his undergraduate degree at NAU and is currently playing in the National Football League. Khalil's brother, Tommie, a fellow student-athlete playing football, was the last to follow in the family's footsteps and is a two-time NAU alum.

"I had a great time at NAU, and studying Fitness and Wellness helped me learn more about my body inside and out—understanding the importance of nutrition, exercise, and preparing myself for any injuries," said Khalil.

790 gifts to athletics

716 Skyjacks members \$2,459,602 contributions to athletics

444 gifts to the Skyjacks Annual Fund Five different students, five different NAU experiences. Brittni and Khalil had scholarship assistance to attend school, whereas Tommie was a walk-on for football. They each understood the value of an education but had different methods for obtaining it. Inspired by the donors who supported them, the family made a gift to the NAU Athletics Champions Fund in 2023 that was matched for a total impact of \$6,000 toward student-athlete nutrition.

"Our family experienced the extremes from having scholarship and financial assistance to not," shared Tommie. "We knew what it meant to be a student-athlete and what that experience is like. Now we have the opportunity to give back and want to support other student-athletes."

"Playing sports, we were always hungry," added Khalil. "Especially after a game, I just couldn't get enough calories in. Last time Tommie and I were in Flagstaff, we passed out gift cards to help other students get groceries because we could relate."

The Dorsey 5's NAU experience is a family affair, with pride emanating throughout and radiating from dads Larry and Tommie, who shared that keeping everyone in touch can be a challenge. But the family still finds ways to connect to their alma mater and credit NAU for getting them where they are today. This inside perspective empowers them to lead a life of gratitude, giving back for the opportunities granted to them.



NAU ATHLETICS 2022–23 CHAMPIONSHIPS

Women's Soccer regular season and tournament Big Sky Conference champions

Men's Cross Country Big Sky Conference champions

Women's Cross Country Big Sky Conference champions

Men's Cross Country NCAA Mountain regional champions

Men's Cross Country NCAA Division I national champions

Women's Swim and Dive Western Athletic Conference champions

Women's Basketball regular season Big Sky Conference champions

Women's Indoor Track Big Sky Conference champions

Men's Indoor Track Big Sky Conference champions

Men's Tennis regular season Big Sky Conference champions

Women's Tennis regular season Big Sky Conference champions

Men's Outdoor Track Big Sky Conference champions

Women's Outdoor Track Big Sky Conference champions



NAU ATHLETICS CELEBRATES 207 CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIPS

The championship tradition within NAU Athletics may not be new, but the way the Lumberjacks celebrate it is.

When the Student-Athlete High Performance Center (SAHPC) opened in February of 2022, the Lumberjacks looked for new ways to display Big Sky and Western Athletic Conference championships, and the Numbers Ceremony was born.

In the middle of the Grand Hall sits a pillar with three NAU-blue wooden numbers on display. Once a team wins a conference championship, they gather with their teammates, coaches, and staff to change the numbers over. They commemorate with exclusive championship pins, celebratory sweets, and several photo opportunities to document their success.

When the SAHPC opened, the Lumberjacks sat at 188 conference championships following the women's cross country's 2021 Big Sky Conference title. The honor of the inaugural changing of the numbers to 189 went to the women's indoor track and field team.

And in less than one calendar year, the same team earned NAU's 200th conference championship. Since then, the Lumberjacks have celebrated seven more times. They ended the year with number 207 on display, with the promise of many more Numbers Ceremonies in 2023–24.

Improving sustainable stewardship of resources

ith an ambitious goal to be carbon neutral by 2030, NAU is committed to the responsible use of environmental resources. Through exceptional learning environments and your support, Lumberjacks are taking steps to address this head-on, conserving vital species and addressing food insecurity in northern Arizona.



A MATCH FOR MONARCHS AND MILKWEED

Despite being an essential species to the health of our planet, monarch butterfly populations are declining because of habitat loss and climate change. In response, a group of interns at NAU are stepping in to help restore this iconic pollinator.

The Monarch Butterfly Intern Program, led by Professor Richard Hofstetter, PhD, and Regents Professor Emeritus Michael Wagner, PhD, brings awareness to monarch butterfly conservation to combat the rapid decline of this crucial species.



Through their non-profit, Arizona Milkweeds for Monarchs, interns grow native milkweed plants, a nutrient-dense food source favored by monarchs and other pollinators.

For the past three years, Michael established an NAU Giving Day match to raise money for a lead monarch butterfly conservation intern. Through the collective impact of donors, nearly \$8,500 has been raised to support this role. This year, Environmental Science and Biology student Emma Elsner, '24, earned the spot. On top of her internship, Emma is also a recipient of the Hooper Undergraduate Research Award.

"Every week, I am learning more about monarchs and triggers that affect their survival," Emma shared. "Through this internship and Hooper funding, I am able to drive my own research with support from the other interns and Dr. Hofstetter in a collaborative and supportive environment. It's been an amazing experience."

For more of Emma's story, visit **foundationnau.org/monarch**.



TACKLING FOOD INSECURITY FOR NORTHERN ARIZONA

It started out as a request for wholesome and nutritious food for rural community members by the Mohave County Health Department. A few years later, the Rural Foods Pathway Project (RFPP) created by the Sustainable Communities Program at NAU has developed several linked projects to address food security in northern Arizona.

Rural areas like Mohave County and the Navajo Nation often lack healthy food due to the shortage of grocery stores and the vast distances between them. As a result, residents are more dependent on processed foods that are often expensive. The RFPP has stepped in, implementing projects to increase awareness and provide access to nutritious and affordable foods.

Thanks to partners like the Sustainable Economic Development Initiative of Northern Arizona (SEDI), the RFPP is finding solutions to food distribution problems among these rural communities.

The funding provided by SEDI helped NAU students like Reilly Caldwell, '23, conduct field research to understand existing food quality and address questions from community members. Part of Reilly's role as a graduate student in the Sustainable Communities Program involved working with Community-University Public Inquiry (CUPI), a collaborative research program that works with community partner St. Mary's Food Bank to supply fresh produce and staple groceries to rural areas.

"CUPI is a program that brings together juniors and seniors to work on community-based research projects as undergrads," said Peter Friederici, professor in NAU's School of Communication who also teaches in the Sustainable Communities program. "The students help fill gaps for community-based research that benefits not only us but also St. Mary's Food Bank."

"St. Mary's Food Bank has had a wonderful collaboration with NAU and an interdisciplinary group of students in the CUPI program," said Ceara Chirovsky, senior programs manager at St. Mary's Food Bank Alliance. "The students conducted boots-on-the-ground outreach and surveying of our agency network in some of our most rural communities. The feedback we have received from these communities has been extremely valuable."

Learn more about RFPP and the projects they are leading by visiting **nazrfpp.info**.

Alumni Association Distinguished Alumni Award honorees

treasured university tradition, the Honored Alumni and Hall of Fame Ceremony took place on November 4, 2022, recognizing some of NAU's best. Honorees were celebrated for their outstanding citizen services, excellence in their careers, and overall Lumberjack spirit.



Dr. Cliff Harkins Distinguished Citizen of the Year Award David Engelthaler, PhD, '91, '14

Dwight Patterson Alumnus/Alumna of the Year Award Jennifer Nez Denetdale, PhD, '91, '99

Excellence in Achievement by a Recent Graduate Sally Barnes, '13

Jeff Ferris Volunteer of the Year Award Brian Callaway, '99

Joe and Marie Rolle Spirit of NAU Award Nancy Serenbetz, '75



Jim Jayne, '91

More than 200,000 alumni are rooted in the NAU experience —the traditions, values, and pride that propels our journey to make a difference. NAU alumni empower students and contribute to NAU's exceptional education. I am proud to be a part of the NAU alumni family and advance the NAU experience for generations of Jacks!

alumni volunteers and mentors

378

2,951 alumni chapter members 68 volunteer

activities

Board of Directors

Service during fiscal year 2023 (July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023)

Our volunteer board members empower NAU's community of alumni and friends and serve as role models for elevating excellence. These ambassadors ensure sustainable stewardship of funds and advance strategic initiatives while cultivating lifelong relationships that unite the Lumberjack family. Their commitment, engagement, and unprecedented investments are integral to advancing NAU's mission.

NAU ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD

Jim Jayne, '91, President Jana Harper, '90, Vice President Brandon Rivera, '14, Officer-at-Large Blaise Caudill, '13 Kedren Dillard, '00 David Franke, '23* Trina George, '09 Alex Gutierrez, '85, '90 Melvin Hunter, Jr., '10 Rick Koch, III, '72 Marquitta Rippy, '15 Carmelle Malkovich, '03 Joseph Mead, '83 Eduardo Moreno, '21

Mary O'Driscoll, '82 Janet Sweigart, '83 Maggie Thom, '12, '17 Wayne Watson, '84 Cathy Wylet, '82 Past Presidents Representative

NAU FOUNDATION BOARD

David Franke, '23*, Chair Victoria Fimea, '83, Vice-Chair Amy J. Peña, '94, Secretary Robin Braun, '77, '21*, Treasurer George W. Adams, '74 Eric S. Baker, '86 Lisa Bagwell, '89 Teresa Bartels, '75 Bob Bement Robert Braudy Donald M. Brooks, '76 Booker Evans Jr., '69, '70 Richard Gerkin, '75 William "Bill" Heibel, '70, '73 Jim Jayne, '91 Tim Kinney, '82 Sandy Owen, '86 Thomas Perkins, '80 Rick Rodriguez, '84 Katrina Rogers, '88 Tony Tewelis *Honorary doctorate



David Franke, '23*

The NAU Foundation Board is proud to support and amplify NAU's goal to equitably broaden participation and improve post-college outcomes. The financial milestones achieved this year are a direct reflection of the collective impact of NAU's supportive community.

NAU Foundation financials

The Foundation's overall investment portfolio is comprised of currentuse funds and other assets. After a challenging FY22, where markets experienced significant and historic declines, we netted a return of 12.4% for FY23. Discipline and patience are at the core of our investment philosophy, which led to a great FY23 that will continue to benefit NAU for many years to come.

DONOR INVESTMENTS

\$6,034,991

\$47,565,228

endowments

OVERALL INVESTMENT PEFORMANCE

\$244,408,586

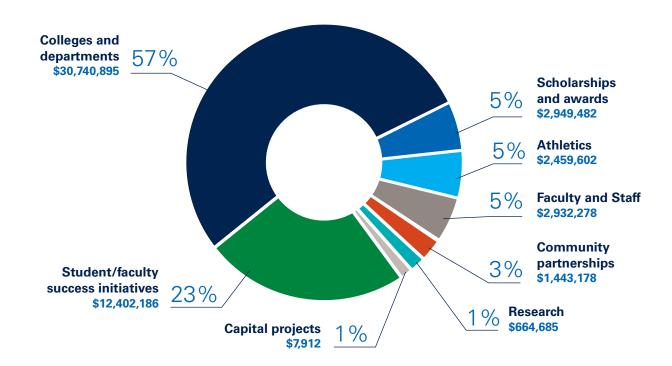
peak overall investment performance



Over 10 years, the investment portfolio yielded an average of 7.9 percent. The chart reflects the NAU Foundation's investment returns to NACUBO composite benchmark. As of FY23, our investments outperformed the benchmark on three-, five-, and tenyear horizons.

The Student Managed Investment Fund (SMIF) at The W. A. Franke College of Business enables finance students at NAU to acquire practical experience in investment research and portfolio management. Collaborating with faculty and the NAU Foundation Investment Committee, these students successfully expanded the SMIF portfolio to over \$5.87 million by June 30, 2023.

WHERE DID DONORS INVEST?

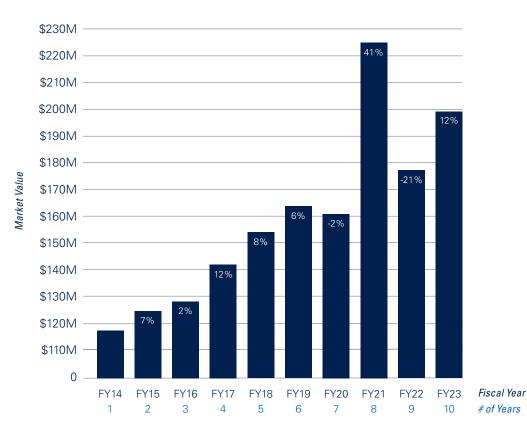


ENDOWMENT GROWTH AND PERFORMANCE

\$198,204,486

endowment market value as of June 30, 2023

In FY23, donors created 25 new endowed funds, bringing the total to 937 funds restricted in perpetuity for donor priorities. These funds will propel student support, research, public service, and creative endeavors, creating a bold and lasting impact.





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foundationnau.org | 928-523-2012 | foundation@nau.edu