



## Fisher College – FY23 Financial Statement Summary

Per Mass. General Laws c.69 § 31B(f), requirements for private institutions of higher education state that “Each institution shall post on its website a copy of the institution’s annual financial report or statement, required pursuant to section 8F of chapter 12 and a summary of the report, however termed, that is written in terms that are understandable by the general public.” As such, Fisher College provides the following summary report of the College’s Fiscal Year 2023 Financial Statements, and the accompanying Fisher College Financial Statements.

### **Note from Fisher College management regarding our Fiscal Year 2023 Financial Statements audit:**

We have fulfilled our responsibilities, including our responsibility for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States (“GAAS”) and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller of the General of the United States.

### **Results of the Fisher College Financial Statements Audit:**

#### **Items of Note and Significance**

- *The balance sheet, liquidity, and surplus of Fisher College continue to reflect a significant level of strength and stability despite the residual enrollment challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, the prolonged volatility of investment markets, an inflationary economy and the overall continued decline in college markets and enrollments.*
- *Despite the challenges of the nationwide enrollment decline (undergraduate college enrollment dropped 8% from 2019 to 2022) Fisher’s revenues from student tuition and fees increased approximately 7% year-over-year, and FY23 saw an increase in Net Assets from Operations of over \$300K. Additionally, Fisher recorded an overall increase in Net Assets Without Donor Restrictions of over \$4.2M, ending the year exceeding \$56M in Total Net Assets.*
- *Though grant funding under the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund and the Federal CARES Act ended in FY22, the College qualified through the Federal*

*Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for the reimbursement of certain expenditures incurred in its respond to the federal government's COVID-19 emergency declaration. These expenditures totaled approximately \$675K; reimbursements of those expenditures were recorded as revenue in FY23, and funds were received following the close of the fiscal year.*

- *FY23 saw substantial success with the launch of its Esports program in the fall of 2022. Led by nationally-ranked coaches and over 100 elite players, it is the first Boston-area school to elevate Esports to the highest collegiate level. Outside of competitive gaming, students learn how to manage teams, run Esports events, obtain partnerships and sponsorships, and become proficient in the production of live streaming. With a state-of-the-art Esports facility and success in its own right, the program has helped stabilize enrollments in a declining market and has facilitated putting the College into a significant national and international spotlight.*

### **Key Financial Matters**

- *The College continues to reflect strong liquidity on its Statements of Financial Position. As the majority of the College's quasi-endowment funds are readily available for operations by vote of the Board, fully 75% of Fisher's Total Assets, or \$46M, are considered to be Liquid Financial Assets at year-end, up over \$2M from FY22.*
- *The value of the College's investment portfolio increased in FY23 by approximately 11%, or \$4.8M, due primarily to the recovery of the stock market. Approximately 97% (\$46.2M) of Fisher College's investment portfolio resides within its stock portfolio, while the remaining 3% (\$1.6M) represents the book value of the College's investment in real estate. Note that while investment in real estate is valued at amortized cost; market value of these properties is estimated to be in excess of \$24.8M, which serves to strengthen the "off" balance sheet value of Fisher's investment portfolio to be in excess of \$71M.*
- *The Statement of Activities reflects a gain from operations in FY23 of over \$300K, remaining steady year-over-year and once more reflecting the College's ability to balance expenditures to projected revenues. Though the Statement of Cash Flows shows a net decrease in cash and cash equivalents for the year (\$677K), a significant amount of that cash (\$1.6M) was invested in technology equipment, furniture & fixtures, and infrastructure projects and improvements - more than double FY22's CAPEX of approximately \$700K. A significant portion of these expenditures were made in the technology, equipment and infrastructure of the new Esports program.*
- *Fisher completed its transition away from remote campuses to becoming fully on-line with its Graduate and Professional Studies (GPS) Division. All existing property leases expired and were not renewed, and the only College-owned property utilized as a remote classroom location was on a purchase-and-sales agreement as of year-end June 30<sup>th</sup>. The land and building located in Attleboro, MA were scheduled to close in December, 2023.*

- *The College's debt position remains healthy. Bond balances declined by approximately \$280K, though total debt increased by approximately \$600K. With Total Liabilities of \$9.5M and total Net Assets in excess of \$56M, Fisher College maintains a remarkably low debt ratio of under 17%.*

### **Auditors' Opinion on Financial Statements**

- *Fairly stated in all material respects.*
- *Considered a "clean" or "unmodified" report. An auditor gives an unmodified opinion if the financial statements present a true and fair view. Additionally, Fisher had no "audit findings" in their FY23 Financial Statements. With no findings, Fisher's audit is significant in the auditors' assessment of its accuracy.*