Westfield State University

2024 IMPACT REPORT

Honoring our Past ★ Building our Future









WESTFIELD STATE UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION

Celebrating WESTFIELD STATE 185 1839 ★ 2024



WESTFIELD STATE UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION, INC. BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2023–24

Executive Committee

George Flevotomos, *Chair*

Elizabeth Scheibel, *Past Chair*

Kevin Queenin '70, *1st Vice Chair*

Heather Witalisz, *2nd Vice Chair*

James Krupienski, *Treasurer*

Eileen Rockwal '91, *Clerk*

Board of Directors

Melissa A. Alvarado '99

Sheridan F. Carey '65

Joshua T. Clark '15

Sharon M. Czarnecki '92

John A. Dempsey

Lawrence Gwozdz '69

John P. Morizio '75 '87

Andrew T. Oleksak '69

Andrea M. Pianka '10

Carlton Pickron

Chelsea M. Russell '16

Ralph M. Studley '00

Ron J. Veno '85

Kaolin Westcott '24

WESTFIELD STATE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2023–24

Ali R. Salehi, *Chair*

Melissa A. Alvarado '99, *Vice Chair*

Gloria B. Williams, Ed.D. '77, *Secretary*

Paul D. Boudreau, Esq.

George Gilmer '92

Theresa A. Jasmin

Madeline Landrau

Tessa Lucey '89 (as of 3/1/2024)

Robert A. Martin, Ph.D. (until 3/1/2024)

Chris Montemayor '90, '09, *Alumni Trustee*

William C. Reichelt, Esq. '09

Daniel Currier '25, *Student Trustee*

WESTFIELD STATE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL 2023–24

Jennifer Andrade '02

Megan Bishop '13, *President*

Perry Davis '71

Meaghan Farrell '07, M'12

Lesley Lambert '92

Jacob Lotter '18

Chris Montemayor '90, M'09 *Alumni Trustee Rep.*

Colleen Murphy Clifton '11 *President Elect*

Michael O'Rourke '73

Jamie Partridge '08

Nicole Primeau '16

Arlene Tierney '71 *Secretary*

Ronald Veno, Jr. '85

Kathryn White '80

Richard Winning M'17



GEORGE FLEVOTOMOS



LISA MCMAHON

Dear Foundation Friends,

As we open our year of anniversary celebrations, we cannot help but think of the generations of students who have been part of the Westfield State University community. From the early days of the Westfield Normal School to today's place of innovative learning, this institution has helped students learn new skills, forge lifelong friendships, and grow into citizens committed to serving our communities. Although we can mark 185 years of excellence in education, we cannot begin to measure the impact of those years on Massachusetts and the world.

In our annual Impact Report, we are happy to share with you – the alumni, donors, and stakeholders – how Westfield State University is moving forward with a bold vision and renewed commitment to our mission of offering accessible quality education to all students. We hope you will see how your support and dedication make meaningful impacts on the success of those who choose to be Owls and make the Westfield State University legacy their own.

As we reflect on the first half of Westfield State's 185th anniversary celebration, it is clear that the values we were founded upon are alive and well, thanks to generations of students, faculty, staff, and supporters who have studied, taught, and grown as people together. And through the ongoing dedication of the Owl community, generations more will benefit from the infinite possibilities ahead.

We thank you for your unwavering support and continue to be eager to tell you more about the great happenings of our beloved institution.

Sincerely,

George Flevotomos
Board Chair
Westfield State University Foundation, Inc.

Lisa McMahon
Interim Vice President, Institutional Advancement
Executive Director, Westfield State University Foundation, Inc.



DR. LINDA THOMPSON

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

Westfield State University is a special place. Our community of Owls is made up of special people. In my time here, I have seen countless examples of people who see a need and step up to do something about it. I see this in how our students engage with and support each other. I see our faculty and staff give of their knowledge and expertise to get the most from the learners we serve. And I see service and dedication from our alumni and supporters who invest in our future with their gifts of time, talent, and treasure.

In my role as President of Westfield State University, I am responsible for driving us forward and opening doors so that our talented community members can do more to fulfill our mission of educating all students. I know that to fully realize our shared vision, we must always be innovative in how we provide education. As we celebrate our 185th anniversary, we commit to looking to our past for inspiration while always thinking about the possibilities before us.

We must always think about how we can engage on a deeper, meaningful level with each other, with our students, with our community, and with you, our stakeholders. When we do these things and place these values at the center of our actions, we will advance together. We will advance our University's financial standing and the impact we can have on Westfield, Western Massachusetts, and beyond.

I urge you to consider how you can invest in Westfield State's future by joining me in my work to meet these critical strategic goals. Our campus is more than ready, but we need your support. We can all give something, but it is a privilege to have the resources, the expertise, and the talent to invest. And right now, Westfield State needs investors.

The future is very bright for the next 185 years at Westfield State University. Join me today as we transform our infinite possibilities into successful realities.

Warmly,
Linda


ALI SALEHI




Celebrating
WESTFIELD STATE
185
INFINITE POSSIBILITIES


WESTFIELD
STATE


WESTFIELD
STATE UNIVERSITY
Westfield
STATE UNIVERSITY



Celebrating WESTFIELD STATE 185

1839 ★ 2024

INFINITE POSSIBILITIES

185 years ago, Westfield State University was born from an idea for an equal, just, educated society built on participatory democracy. Horace Mann believed in the possibility of a better future for Massachusetts because he saw the power of education. His ideas – his belief in the power of possibility – changed the Commonwealth and changed the world.

Today, Westfield State University remains a space for big ideas, for learning new things and rethinking what we already think we know. We ask questions. We seek answers. We are curious and accepting.

In honor of the University's 185 years of service, we celebrated those who look to the future with bravery and hope. We honored those who strive to be a positive light for others. We uplifted those who dream big dreams, answer the call to service, and build resilient, inclusive communities for tomorrow.

2024 was a time to celebrate our 185 years of excellence and welcome the infinite possibilities of our future.

A key feature of our anniversary was the opportunity to craft new traditions with signature events that connect the Westfield State University community with others across the region in honor of our shared values.



Keeper of the Dream



Westfield Mayor and Westfield State alum Michael McCabe '84, '94 talks with students at the inaugural Keeper of the Dream dinner



President Linda Thompson and Emcee Wesley Days Jr. of Western Mass News share a laugh with the audience as part of a night of joy and celebration

Keeper of the Dream Dinner

Westfield State University kicked off the 185th anniversary celebrations by partnering with the cities of Westfield and West Springfield to host the inaugural Keeper of the Dinner in honor of Black History Month and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., emphasizing a theme from a July 1962 address where he remarked, "We must accept finite disappointment, but never lose infinite hope." Sponsored by Westfield Bank, the program attracted around 250 individuals to a program featuring honorees from each community who were recognized for their many accomplishments that have demonstrated integrity, resilience and drive, all of which are ideals that align with the spirit and legacy of Dr. King.

SCAN THE QR CODE TO READ MORE ABOUT THE **KEEPER OF THE DREAM**



Keeper of the Dream Honorees

WEST SPRINGFIELD HONOREES

(L–R) **Mustafa Thompson,** Veteran's Advisory Board of West Springfield, and **Addison Thompson,** Student of West Springfield Public Schools

WESTFIELD HONOREES

Ronald Gibbons, Emergency Management Director for City of Westfield, and **Petrina Fondakowski,** President of Japolies, Inc.

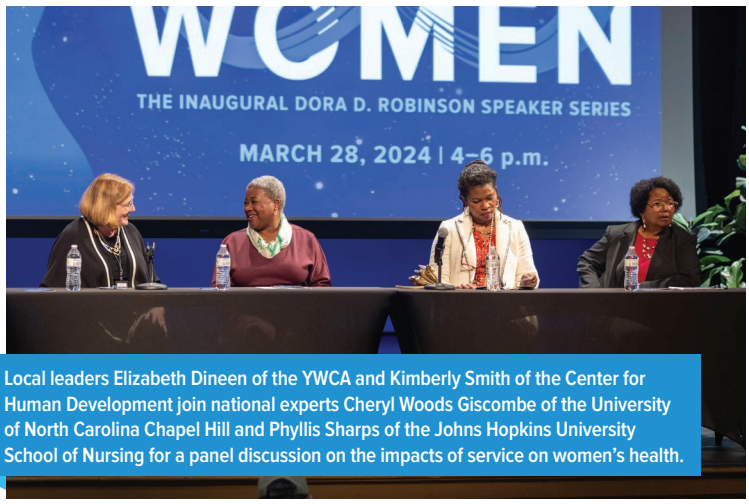
WESTFIELD STATE HONOREES

Tania M. Barber, President & CEO of Caring Health Center, and La-Toya Wilson and Tyrone Abrahamian, accepting the award on behalf of **Joan E. Fuller,** Retired Director of Urban Education Program (now LEAD Scholars)





Dora D. Robinson, a distinguished advocate for social and racial justice



Local leaders Elizabeth Dineen of the YWCA and Kimberly Smith of the Center for Human Development join national experts Cheryl Woods Giscombe of the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill and Phyllis Sharps of the Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing for a panel discussion on the impacts of service on women's health.



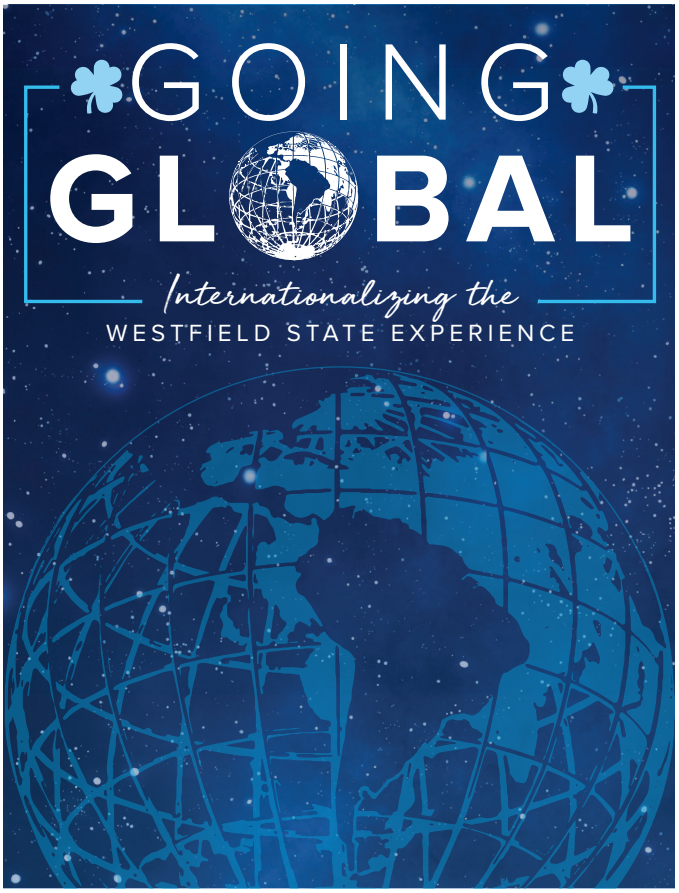
President Thompson welcomes guests to the Westfield State campus.

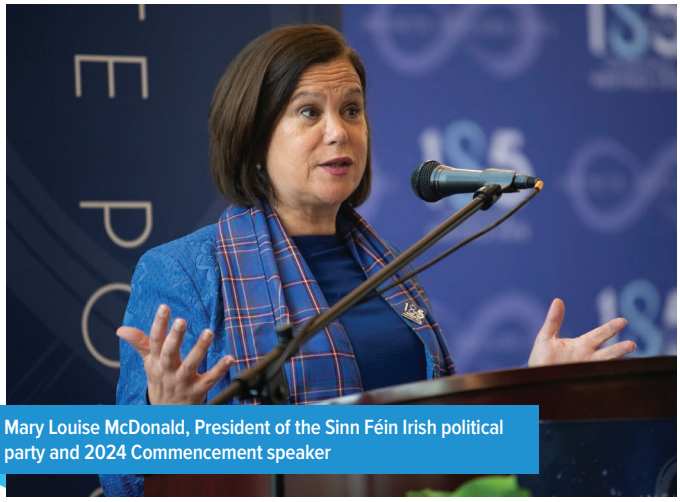
The Dora D. Robinson Speaker Series: Supporting our Superwomen

Recognizing the legacy of Dora D. Robinson, an influential advocate for social and racial justice throughout Western Massachusetts, Westfield State University continued the anniversary celebrations with another inaugural event "Supporting our Superwomen." The event was a celebration of women's achievements and a platform to address the challenges women face in contemporary society.

National speakers joined with local leaders to discuss the "Superwomen Syndrome," shedding light on the pressures that lead women to prioritize perfectionism, work, and service, over their own well-being. Students, faculty, staff, alumni, and community guests enjoyed an afternoon of learning and sharing sponsored by the YWCA of Western Massachusetts, the Links Incorporated, and the Public Health Institute of Western Massachusetts.

SCAN THE QR CODE TO READ MORE ABOUT **THE DORA ROBINSON SPEAKER SERIES**





Mary Louise McDonald, President of the Sinn Féin Irish political party and 2024 Commencement speaker



President Thompson, Board of Trustees Chair Ali Salehi, and Board of Trustees Vice Chair Melissa Alvarado '99 support Westfield State's study abroad opportunities.

Going Global: Welcoming an International Leader

Closing the spring semester was a reception and fundraiser held the evening before the annual Commencement celebrations featuring Mary Louise McDonald, President of the Sinn Féin Irish political party and 2024 Commencement speaker, recognized for her contributions to housing, healthcare, and climate change in Ireland. Attendees contributed to global initiatives aimed at expanding study abroad programs, with proceeds enhancing international experiences for Westfield State students and underscoring the University's commitment to diverse educational opportunities.

In McDonald's Commencement address she praised graduates for their perseverance and encouraged them to implement change in their communities and worldwide. "You made it," she said. "You all climbed the mountain in your own way and today, you proudly plant your own flag on the summit of success. All of the sacrifices, hours in the library, the late-night assignment deadlines, the exams… all of the moments where you doubted your path but still found the determination to believe in yourself and carry on, it has all led you here to this incredible point of success. It was all worth it. Never underestimate your achievements because this life will have lots of twists and turns. But nobody will ever take this away from you because you've earned it."

President Linda Thompson added, "President McDonald's practices of supporting and encouraging social justice, democracy, equity, fairness, and inclusion are not unlike the principles of Horace Mann, the founder of our institution. President McDonald has demonstrated her belief in the quality and importance of higher education and her devotion to lifelong learning and volunteer service"

SCAN THE QR CODE TO SEE THE PHOTO GALLERY FROM **GOING GLOBAL**

Westfield State Rolls out the Blue Carpet for "LIGHTS, CAMERA, HOMECOMING!"

For four days, Westfield turned Hollywood with celebrations across campus. Alumni, faculty, staff, and students enjoyed perfect fall weather at the annual tailgate tent village where they shared food and camaraderie while cheering on the Owls men's soccer and football teams. While scarecrow decorating contests, pumpkin carving, s'mores, and a hayride entertained students, alumni and donors made giving back the focus of their weekend.

Ryan Meersman, Director of Alumni Relations, noted, "This year's Homecoming really honored our amazing alumni, their achievements, and their philanthropy. It was a great weekend to be an Owl!"



Alumni enjoy Tent Tailgating and catching up with Owl friends.

Debuting New Traditions

Westfield State supporters got a fun new tradition and some competition with the inaugural Homecoming online auction organized by the Westfield State University Foundation Fundraising Committee.

Over 50 items worth over $10,000 were donated from local businesses, alumni, and supporters with special donations coming from faculty and staff who offered up unique opportunities s uch as a special food and wine pairing in the Dining Commons and a private dinner with President Thompson. Attendees of the Homecoming Scholarship Dinner got a special preview of items while online bidding moved swiftly, sparking friendly competition amongst interested participants. However, students were the real winners of the event thanks to the money raised for scholarships and other critical support.

Shine a Light on Scholarship

The annual Scholarship Dinner highlighted four scholarships: the Dan Doyle Memorial Scholarship, the Jerry Gavel Memorial Scholarship, the Class of 1969 Scholarship, and the Dr. Terrell M. Hill "Leader for Change" Scholarship. Scholarships like these provide critical support for deserving students and provide alumni and friends with an opportunity to give back to a place they love.

The Dan Doyle Memorial Scholarship honors Daniel Doyle '81 who passed in 1982. As Doyle was a member of both the cross country and track teams at Westfield State, student-athletes have raised over $200,000 in the 30 years this scholarship's been awarded.

The Jerry Gavel Memorial Scholarship commemorates Coach Jerry Gavel, who was a coach, teacher, and mentor at the University. Similarly, over $200,000 in funds has been raised through fundraising over the span of 30 years.

Created by fellow classmates, the **Class of 1969 Scholarship** memorializes and honors peers and friends who are both living and deceased, while simultaneously inspiring other classes to leave their own legacies.



Honorees and Student Participants show off their Nestor Statuettes as a Dressed Up Version of the Oscar: (Front L-R): Roland Damon '56 '59, President Linda Thompson, Andy Oleksek '69, Larry Gwozdz '69, Terrell Hill '92, Peter Davenport '80, Seamus Mitchell '24; (Back L-R): Bryon Stone, Krista Stone, Iyana Gordon '25, Kaitlyn Egan '24 '25

The Dr. Terrell M. Hill "Leader for Change" Scholarship was established by Dr. Hill to help underrepresented minority and first-generation students receive quality education.

The Scholarship Dinner also honored Roland Damon '56, '59 who is supporting the University in honor of his late wife, Ruth Merritt Damon, and whose generosity and enthusiasm also inspired his children to give, making philanthropy a family affair.

Honoring Owl Nation

The biannual Athletic Hall of Fame welcomed new inductees and celebrated those whose support of the Owls keeps the Westfield State programs running.

"Events like Homecoming are often a reason to call home alumni athletes, coaches, and supporters to celebrate what it means to be an Owl." President Thompson said in her opening remarks. "Our athletes are diplomats and ambassadors for our University, representing our campus during travels across the region, and I am proud our alumni continue to do the same as they reflect so positively on our University."

Tom Stewart '88, was inducted for his contributions to cross country and track and field. He's now the Director of Athletics at Holyoke Community College, where he's served since 1996.

Kerry Arouca '10 was also inducted for cross country and track. Once a former middle school teacher, she now runs day care activities for several local physicians in the Brockton area.

Andrea Cohen '09 was inducted for women's basketball category and serves as a stay-at-home mother for her four children. Cohen remains involved in the basketball communities, as she coaches her daughter's youth basketball team.

Josh Mathieu '10 was inducted for men's football and is one of just 11 All-Americans in the history of the Owls program. He currently is a police detective in Lunenburg, Massachusetts.

The final inductee was Dave Jaehnig '09, for men's basketball. As a middle school math teacher in Waltham, he continues to influence the next generation of students and future athletes.



2023 Inductees: (Front Row, L-R): Andrea Cohen, Tom Stewart, Kerry Arouca (Standing L-R): Dave Jaehnig, Josh Mathieu

The dinner also honored Joanne Parker and the late Jim Parker '98 as the 2023 Hagan Award Recipients. The Hagan Award is named after its first recipient, Westfield Bank President Jim Hagan '84, and is awarded to those who've significantly impacted Owl sports through their contributions and volunteerism. Jim and Joanne Parker have historically been generous supporters of Westfield State University and have established endowed funds for the men and women's cross country teams, thereby supporting the programs in perpetuity.

Dr. Terrell M. Hill "Leader for Change" Scholarship; Urban Education/Joan E. Fuller Scholarship; Frederick S. "Joe" Kareta Scholarship



"I would like to thank the donor for making this investment in my education. As a first-generation college student, having people who believe in me and my academic journey encourages me to work harder in my studies."

IYANA GORDON '25
CRIMINAL JUSTICE, POLITICAL SCIENCE

Kamal Ali Scholarship
Ellen Wetherell Scholarship



"Thank you sincerely for the fantastic opportunity you gave me with this scholarship. Your commitment to helping students succeed and gain international experience is extremely motivating. Your dedication to promoting global experiences and advancing education resonates strongly with me."

SULTAN HUSSEIN '23
BIOLOGY, HEALTH SCIENCES

Dan Doyle Memorial Scholarship



"These funds will go a long way to ensure that I can keep attending future classes without my family struggling financially in order for me to do so. I had never been chosen for a scholarship before and I am humbled by this honor."

TAMMY MERENDA '25
LIBERAL STUDIES, BA



Class of 1983 Scholarship
Celeste M. Loughman Scholarship
Barbara A. "Katie" Welch Scholarship



"Thank you so much for your generous support of my education. These funds will allow me to focus on the most essential and engaging parts of my journey toward a four year degree in English. It's my sincere belief that scholarships like this reveal the best parts of academia."

LIAM FOSKETT '24
ENGLISH

Katherine Ann McCluskey '49 Scholarship
Mary & Herman MacDougall Scholarship



"For as long as I can remember I have wanted to earn a double major in both elementary education and special education because I want all the knowledge I can to support every learner that comes in to my classroom. I never want a student to receive a poor education."

CHELSEY MATHEWS '25
ELEMENTARY EDUCATION

Amos-Franco Scholarship



"I want to thank you for this precious gift. This means so much to me as one of the hardest things to do as a student is to find a way to afford education. School is something that is very important to me, and for you to recognize my strengths with welcoming arms, means so much."

AUSTIN SULLIVAN '26
PSYCHOLOGY, SOCIOLOGY

BUILDING A *Brighter Future*

ONE OWL AT A TIME

PARENZO HALL GRAND OPENING









October 2023 saw the grand re-opening of Parenzo Hall, one of the oldest academic buildings on the Westfield State campus, following a $40 million renovation. Homecoming Co-Chairs Doug Meehan '88 and Rae Cofsky '17 hosted campus leaders and dignitaries for the official ribbon cutting and the first event back in Dever Auditorium. The event was especially meaningful for the Co-Chairs as they both got their start in the professional world of communications and entertainment on the same stage as student performers.

Dr. Robert Martin, Board of Trustees Chair; Michael McCabe '84, '94, Westfield mayor; Adam Baacke, Commissioner from the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance; President Linda Thompson; and Nicholas Smith '24, President of the Student Government Association, all spoke about their hopes for Parenzo Hall, as it continues to be a pivotal part of campus infrastructure.

"It was collaboration, hard work, innovative ideas, and risk-taking that got us to this point." President Thompson said during her address. "The groups and individuals that made this renovation happen cross many disciplines. They all were tenacious. We can all agree this is a beautiful space. It is an inspirational space. It's a space to think and dream and learn. Students, faculty, and staff, enjoy this building. Make it your home. Take risks. Pursue your big ideas. Seek out help from others. While this building has a long history for us, this renovation is for our future. It's for your future. This is a proud day for Westfield State University."

Nicholas Smith echoed this sentiment. "Westfield State University is almost 185 years old and since our founding, the institution has always been an example of modernity and innovation. I believe we see evidence of these ideals in this space. I would encourage my fellow students to spend time here. Explore the offices and study spaces. Get to know the people who will be working in this building. This building, after all, was designed with students in mind. This is a space where we can be creative and innovative with our education. I know there are many more ideas being developed for what can





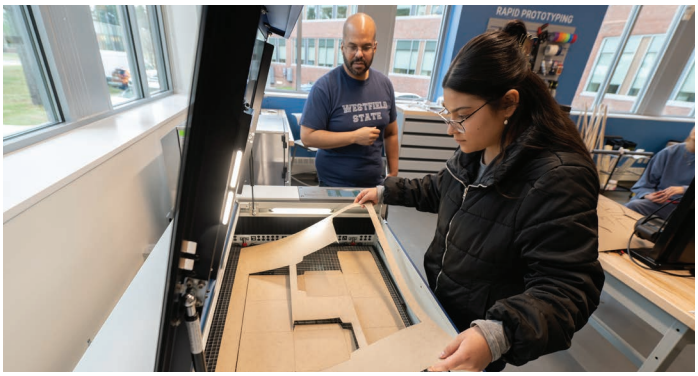
Parenzo Hall reopens after $40 million renovation.

be accomplished here. Students, take advantage of these opportunities. Faculty and staff, we can't wait to work with you here. And supporters, thank you for giving us this space. We promise to make the most of it."

RIDE Center Prepares Today's Students for Tomorrow's Innovation

A key feature of Parenzo Hall is the Research, Innovation, Design & Entrepreneurial (RIDE) Center. Led by Dr. Lamis Jarvinen, the RIDE Center is not just a fabrication lab—it's a place for developing innovative ideas and entrepreneurial practices in Western Massachusetts and beyond. The RIDE Center is dedicated to getting students involved by partnering with external stakeholders and community leaders to address complex problems with fabrication and design tools that encourage creativity and innovation, engaging and preparing students to be thought leaders for jobs of the future.

Supported in large part with grants and donations, the RIDE Center promises to open new worlds for students, enhance instruction by Westfield State faculty, and make connections for creative entrepreneurs who are shaping our future. The Center immediately became a hub of activity with an entrepreneurial speaker series, workshops and training opportunities for faculty, staff, and students, and public events such as the Nonprofit Innovators Forum hosted with the Masters of Public Administration, Policy, and Civic Engagement Program. The RIDE Center also plays a key role in attracting future students to Westfield State by hosting groups such as the Junior Discover program which brought high school students from Springfield and Holyoke to engage with the RIDE Center to solve problems through innovation and creative thinking.



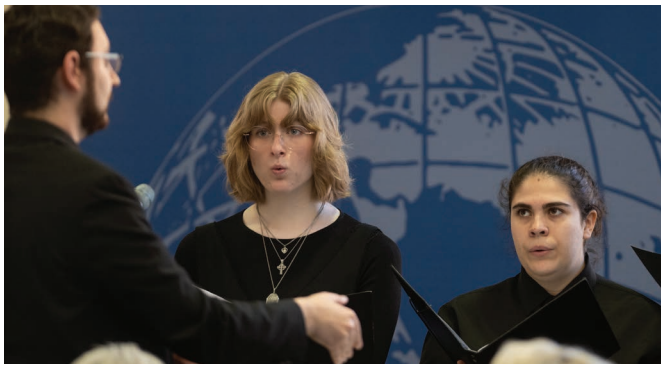
Prof. George Ramirez works with students prototyping packaging design.

Interested in sponsoring the RIDE Center or engaging further? Contact Executive Director Dr. Lamis Jarvinen at ljarvinen@westfield.ma.edu.

PROMOTING RESPECT, UNDERSTANDING, SERVICE *and* COMMUNITY



Rev. John P. McDonagh, Coordinator of Campus Ministry Outreach of the Diocese of Springfield and Pastor of Saints Patrick and Raphael Parish in Williamstown, MA provides the Invocation for a full house of supporters and guests.



Guests were treated to a performance by the University Chorus under the director of Scott Bailey.

The annual Albert and Amelia Ferst Interfaith Center Breakfast honored the many groups and individuals who carry out the Center's mission of supporting religious and spiritual life and promoting interfaith understanding at Westfield State University. Rev. Jason Seymour, President of the Interfaith Council of Western Massachusetts and Minister of the Unitarian Universalist Society of Greater Springfield, provided the message for the event, encouraging attendees to come together in dialogue and reflection in support of building community.

Holly Lurgio, Community Outreach Coordinator at Elm Electrical, Inc., was the guest of honor. As she noted, "Community service holds immense value in my life as it provides a tangible way to give back and make a positive impact on the world around me. When we get involved in service activities at Elm Electrical, it's not just about helping out—it's about building connections with our community. Working alongside Westfield State University, we feel like we're part of something bigger, contributing to the greater good while also forming valuable relationships. It's all about making our Greater Westfield Community stronger, one step at a time."

Abigail Mahoney '24 was the recipient of the Interfaith Student Leadership Award for her work as the President of the Yoga and Meditation Club. "When I joined this club…it was a source of so much peace in my life and I am so grateful to have had the opportunity to continue to grow and support that community of peace."

The United Church of Christ Second Congregational Church was the recipient of the Interfaith Community Service Award in recognition of their continuous support of the mission and work of the Albert and Amelia Ferst Interfaith Center, especially their generosity in providing a welcoming and safe space for the Common Goods Food Pantry.

Special recognition was also given to the faith-based student organizations that create a culture of justice, equity, diversity, and justice by promoting respect for and understanding of diverse religious traditions within the campus community. These groups include the Christian Fellowship, Cru, Jewish Student Organization, Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction Faculty Group, Muslim Student Organization, Newman Club, and Yoga and Meditation Club.











Friends, family, and colleagues come together to celebrate Dr. Patrick Romano's legacy.

Honoring "DOC ROM'S" *Legacy*

Professor Patrick Romano, longtime faculty member of the Department of Chemistry at Westfield State University, passed away in March 2023 after a brief battle with lung cancer. In honor of his life, legacy, and 50 years of service to the Owl community, the Department of Chemical and Physical Sciences undertook a fundraising campaign with a $50,000 goal to support the Patrick "Doc Rom" Romano Memorial Award in Chemistry, an annual recognition for one deserving student who follows in Professor Romano's image. In addition, the fundraising efforts led to the naming of the Patrick Romano Memorial Laboratory in the Nettie Stevens Science and Innovation Center, a building Dr. Romano saw rise on the Westfield State campus.

Professor Romano joined the faculty at Westfield State University after earning his Ph.D. at Worcester Polytechnic Institute. He became a steadfast fixture in the department over an astounding 50-year career, including multiple stints as Department Chair. Amazingly, Professor Romano was involved in hiring every faculty member working in the department at the time of his retirement in 2021. His love for teaching was surpassed only by his dedication to mentorship. Professor Romano connected with countless students over his career, and sincerely enjoyed supporting them in their academic pursuits beyond college.

SCAN THE QR CODE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT **THE PATRICK "DOC ROM" ROMANO MEMORIAL FUND.**

Interested in creating a scholarship or memorial fund to honor a loved one by supporting students? Contact Bill Hynes at (413) 572-8647 or whynes@westfield.ma.edu.



OWLS *Across* MASSACHUSETTS

What started as a simple question—"How many Westfield State alumni live on Cape Cod?"—quickly blossomed into a powerful example of alumni initiative and community spirit.

Two members of the Westfield State Alumni Association Executive Council from the Class of 1971, Dr. Perry Davis and Arlene Tierney, both Cape Cod residents, were curious about their fellow Owls in the region. After some digging, it was discovered that over 1,200 alumni live on Cape Cod and the Islands—a vibrant community just waiting to connect.

Inspired by this discovery, Perry, Arlene, and their spouses, who are also proud Westfield State alumni, rolled up their sleeves to form the Westfield State Alumni Cape Cod Club. Their goal was simple yet powerful: to create meaningful connections and rekindle the shared spirit of their alma mater.

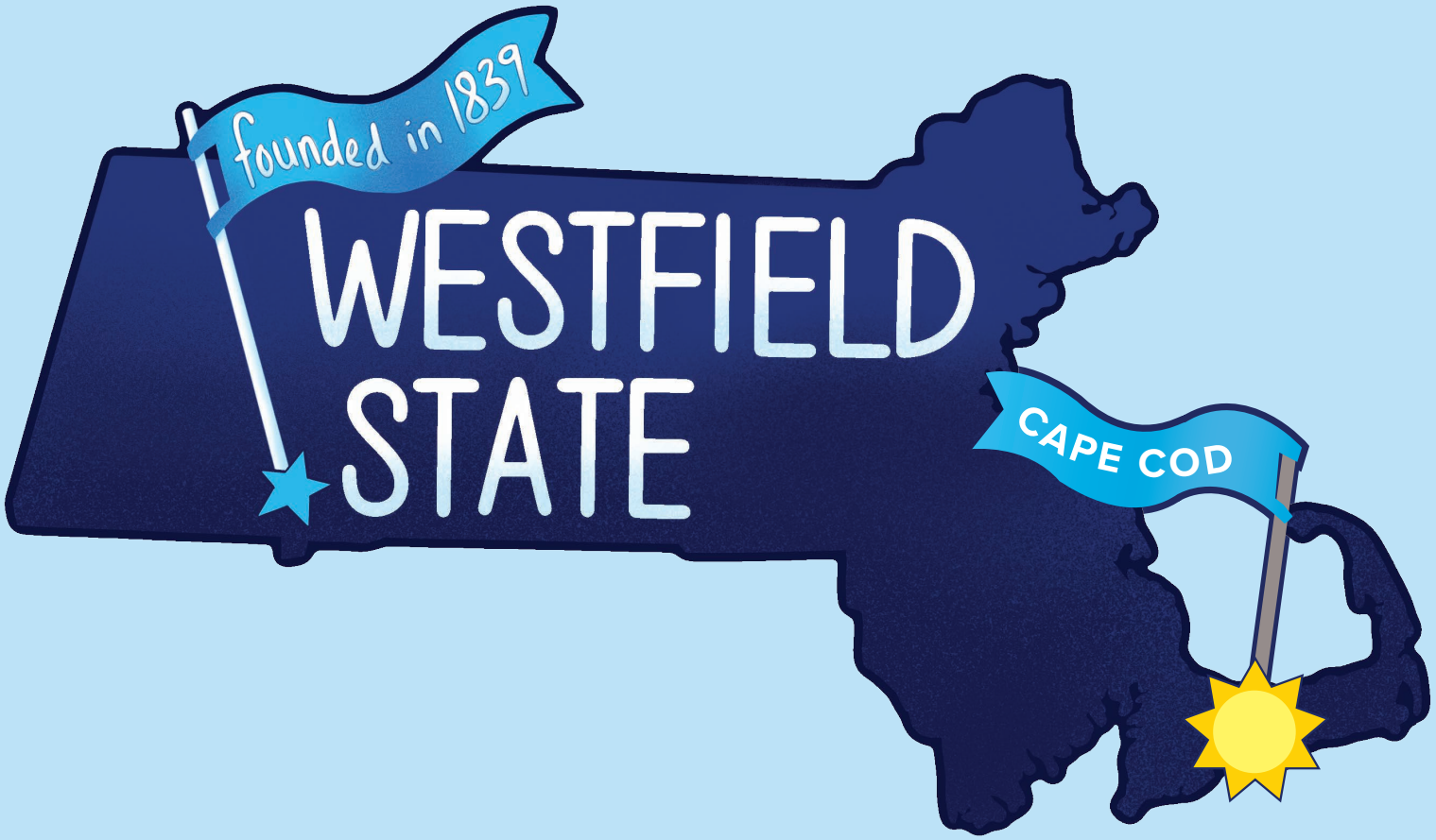
To kick off the effort, Arlene and Doug Tierney hosted a warm, potluck-style gathering at their home during August, 2023. The event drew over 40 enthusiastic alumni and friends, all sharing stories, laughter, and a common bond that time hadn't faded. Especially since attendees ranged from the classes of 1964 all the way to 2012.

The energy was undeniable. With the success of the inaugural event, the group quickly agreed to form a steering committee to keep the momentum going. It was more than just a reunion—it was the beginning of a lasting alumni network on the Cape.

Thanks to the dedication of these trailblazing Class of '71 alumni, a new chapter of Owl pride has begun—right by the sea.

Interested in starting an alumni chapter in your area? Contact Ryan Meersman '12, '18 at rmeersman@westfield.ma.edu or (413) 572-5404.

Westfield State Alumni Association | Cape Cod Club



THANK YOU

for an impactful 2023-2024

Over **1,300** alumni, parents, students, organizations and friends donated

$2.2+ million to support Westfield State University programs & students



381 scholarships were awarded totaling **over $500,000**



Owl Athletics raised **$130,000** to support student athletes



Over $102,000 unrestricted funds raised for most essential needs

GIVE A HOOT
1839 ★ 2024
★ ANNUAL GIVING DAY ★
Celebrating Westfield State's 185th Anniversary

456 gifts raised **over $105,000** in support of our Owls

14%
INCREASE

Total Gifts & Grants
$2,267,103
up from $1,982,657 in FY2023

WESTFIELD STATE UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION, INC.

(A COMPONENT OF WESTFIELD STATE UNIVERSITY)

Statements of Financial Position

June 30, 2024

ASSETS

	2024	2023
Assets:		
Cash and equivalents	**$592,672**	$475,346
Restricted cash and equivalents	**2,441,596**	1,777,551
Unconditional promises to give, net	**264,270**	150,134
Investments	**18,108,003**	15,860,334
Other assets	**12,065**	32,542
Property and equipment, net	**27,035**	36,789
Property held for future development		360,877
Total Assets	**$ 21,806,518**	$18,693,573

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Liabilities:		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	**$7,767**	$1,882
Deferred revenue	**27,765**	25,545
Agency funds held	**279,328**	298,791
Total Liabilities	**314,860**	326,218
Net Assets:		
Without donor restrictions	**695,279**	608,631
With donor restrictions	**20,796,379**	17,758,724
Total Net Assets	**21,491,658**	18,367,355
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	**$21,806,518**	$18,693,573


My scholarships allowed me to ***follow my dreams*** of becoming a lawyer. None of this would have been possible if I hadn't been awarded these scholarships.
SEAMUS '24
CRIMINAL JUSTICE
ENGLISH
Meet Seamus

YOU MAKE *the difference!*

OPPORTUNITY	GIFT	YOUR IMPACT
Westfield Fund Unrestricted (Area of Greatest Need), Financial Assistance, and Internships	**ANY**	Opens doors for current students by supporting critical philanthropic priorities of Westfield State.
Student Scholarships	**ANY**	An impactful way to make a difference while honoring a family member, friend, or colleague or supporting programs and causes that are meaningful to you.
Sponsor-A-Student	**$1,000**	Support a single student with a one-time scholarship award in your name or the name of a loved one. (We will share with you the name of your student and the impact of your gift.)
Sponsor-An-Intern	**$2,500**	Support a deserving student's passion for real world practice by underwriting a powerful semester long experience.
Travel Abroad Experience	**$1,000+**	Sponsor a student's, once-in-a-lifetime experience, as they immerse themselves in a foreign culture for a semester. Many of our students have only dreamed of this opportunity!
Owls Helping Owls/ Student Emergency Fund	**ANY**	A fund to support the essential needs of our students facing unforeseen financial hardships.
Owl Club Athletics	**ANY**	Aid the Westfield State Owl Club in support of all teams.
Last Mile Fund	**$1,000+**	Many of our seniors struggle with finances or unforeseen obstacles; this fund comes at the critical "last mile" to graduation, assuring a pathway for the student to complete their degree.
Endowed Scholarship	**$25,000+**	Generate income in perpetuity by naming a fund for whatever purpose you chose.
Albert And Amelia Ferst Interfaith Center	**ANY**	Directly benefits the programming of the Interfaith Center as they support our Westfield State students.
Common Goods Food Pantry	**ANY**	Directly supports our campus food pantry and our students struggling with food insecurity.
FSSN (Fostering Student Success Network) *Supporting F.A.C.E.S.*	**ANY**	Committed to supporting current and former foster youth and homeless youth.
Bequest Intention	**ANY**	Bequeath a portion of your will, insurance, or retirement asset to be used for any of the aforementioned purposes.
Charitable Gift Annuity	**$50,000+**	Support any designation while receiving tax guaranteed income for life.

For more information, contact Bill Hynes at (413) 572-8647 ,
whynes@westfield.ma.edu or visit westfieldalumni.org/foundation.



Westfield State University
FOUNDATION
Westfield State University

The Westfield State University Foundation, Inc. is profoundly grateful to our many donors. If you are interested in supporting Westfield State students, please contact **Bill Hynes** at **(413) 572-8647** or **whynes@westfield.ma.edu** for more information.

westfieldalumni.org/foundation