2025

Westfield State University

IMPACT REPORT

HONORING OUR PAST
BUILDING OUR FUTURE

WESTFIELD STATE UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION

Celebrating WESTFIELD STATE 185 1839 ★ 2024



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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



DR. LINDA THOMPSON

Dear Friends,

We celebrated our 185th anniversary year under the theme of INFINITE POSSIBILITIES. As we close out this special year of remembering our past, I want to express my INFINITE THANKS to each of you who have attended one of our special events, given a gift of support, or took the time to learn more about what makes Westfield State University such a special place.

These acts of generosity turn our students' hopes into reality. Your scholarships ease financial pressures so students can focus on their studies. Your mentorships and the internships your businesses offer allow our students to prepare for the rapidly changing needs of tomorrow's workforce. Your donations build the kind of campus where students, faculty, staff, and our greater Western Massachusetts community can truly thrive.

Your investments in Westfield State University create a vibrant campus that change lives for the better.

Anniversaries are an excellent time to reflect on your past and set goals for your future. Westfield State remains focused on continued growth and success. Our campus is thriving, our community is energized, and thanks to your support, our next 185 years has never looked brighter!

With gratitude,













Dear Friends,

This year has been one of transition for the Westfield State University Foundation. Although we may come to you as familiar faces, we also come to you in new roles as leaders within the Foundation. We are both humbled and inspired by all those who have given so much of themselves to lead and serve before us and we are thrilled to work alongside you, our donors and friends.

Within these pages we mark the conclusion of the University's 185th anniversary year which presented opportunities for connections with both old and new friends around the world. It is these friendships that enable us to carry out the Foundation's mission "to support students and the University through advocacy, fundraising, engagement and stewardship."

Around campus you will often hear people say, "It's a great day to be an Owl!" We could not agree more. It's also a great day to be part of the Westfield State University Foundation. Wonderful things are happening here. We are honored to be leading the great work of the Foundation board to deliver on our promise to our current Owls.

Thank you for putting your trust in us.

Bill Hynes

Executive Director,
Westfield State University Foundation, Inc.

Executive Director,
Institutional Advancement

James Krupienski

Board Chair,
Westfield State University Foundation, Inc.











“I am honored to begin my role as the Executive Director of the Westfield State University Foundation. I have been at Westfield State for 6 years in various fundraising roles and feel I have found a home here. As the son of middle-class parents and a state institution graduate, I understand the kitchen table conversations around paying for tuition and feel deeply that our mission here in the Foundation is to ease any financial burden to the cost of education here at Westfield. I take great pride in assisting our students (and their parents and champions) to provide them with the scholarship and experiential learning opportunities that will lead to their future success.”

—BILL HYNES



“I come to the Westfield State University Foundation as a parent of a proud Owl. My son made the choice to attend Westfield State to study Accounting, a decision that brought our entire family into this community. While we are extremely proud of our son, we are also grateful to be welcomed here at Westfield State. It is an honor for me to be able to do work that extends opportunities for more students to achieve their dreams.”

—JAMES KRUPIENSKI

AN ANNIVERSARY TO REMEMBER

Homecoming Games, Tailgating, and the Blue Diamond Ball Mark 185 Years







Westfield State University welcomed alumni, students, and community members to its 2024 Homecoming weekend, held from October 17-19. While traditional Homecoming events like athletic matches and tent tailgating with trivia games and BBQs brought alumni, faculty, staff, and students together for a weekend filled with Owl pride, the true highlight of the weekend was the community celebration of its 185th anniversary. The 185th Anniversary theme, Infinite Possibilities, underscored the University's commitment to empowering students for future success while the auspicious occasion provided the opportunity to reflect on our distinguished past and honor those who make investments of their time, treasure, and talents to improve Westfield State's future for everyone.

Co-chaired by Kevin '70 and Barbara '70 Queenin and George '92 and Dominique '89 Gilmer, the Blue Diamond Ball was the pinnacle of the anniversary celebrations. The evening featured a cocktail hour followed by dinner, awards, performances, and dancing under decorative blue lights and glittering gems. The proceeds from the black-tie event supported Westfield State's initiatives aimed at enhancing access to education and removing economic barriers for students.

Musical performances were a highlight of the evening. James Jackson, Jr., '97, an Obie Award-winning New York City actor, educator, performance, and cabaret artist, got the audience signing along with his take on popular classics. Dan Gabel and the Abletones brought a larger-than-life sound pulling up those who wanted to dance. Several musical pieces featured Westfield State's own student musicians!



Homecoming Saturday featured a packed schedule of events. The day began with the Homecoming Breakfast at Tim and Jeanne's Dining Commons, where special receptions honored the LEAD Scholars (Leadership, Excellence, Achievement, Distinction, formerly Urban Education) and Student Government Association (SGA) alumni. A tribute to Dr. Sonia Dinnall '88 G '08, Superintendent of Springfield Schools and Homecoming Honorary Chair, was a key part of the LEAD Scholars event.

Throughout the day, Westfield State's Tent Tailgating Village was in full swing, offering a lively environment for alumni, campus departments, and student organizations. Attendees enjoyed games, trivia, and a tent-decorating contest, which enhanced the atmosphere of school spirit. Athletic events highlighted the day, starting with a women's soccer match against Fitchburg followed by the football game against Framingham, both held at Alumni Field. Around these games, a vendor fair and food trucks provided entertainment and refreshments.

Overall, Westfield State University's 2024 Homecoming celebration was a memorable tribute to its 185-year legacy, filled with Owl pride and community spirit. From the elegant Blue Diamond Ball to the Vibrant Tent Tailgating Village and athletic events, the weekend fostered connections among alumni, students, and supporters.



WESTFIELD STATE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION HONOREES



MRS. MARSHA BEMKO '77
DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI



MR. JAMES JACKSON, JR. '97
ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR



DR. MICHAEL FITZPATRICK '70
EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION 2024



DR. TINA RIORDAN '17
EXCELLENCE IN HEALTHCARE 2024



MRS. MELISSA ALVARADO '99
ALUMNI SERVICE TO WESTFIELD STATE 2024

HOMECOMING AUCTION SUPPORTS STUDENTS

ITEMS AUCTION

- 80 online
- 5 live

MOST POPULAR ITEMS

- VIP Commencement Package
- Framed Celtics Jersey
- Westfield State's 185th Anniversary Commemorative Book
- Springfield Symphony Tickets
- Tickets to *The Lion King* at the Bushnell

SUPPORT RAISED

- $23,000

HAPPY BIDDERS

"The Commencement VIP experience was wonderful. We thought the speakers were excellent and it was the best way to celebrate our son's success!"
—Yve Lopez



WESTFIELD STATE *is a* FAMILY AFFAIR *for the* SULLIVANS

Westfield State's softball field was named "Sullivan Field" on October 19, 2024 as part the University's 185th anniversary celebration at Homecoming. The field was dedicated in honor of the Sullivan family, as Kris '77, Bob '81, Mike '14, and Julia '17 have had a long affiliation with the University as students, athletes, and parents, and have a history of strong support for Westfield State Athletics.

Bob Sullivan pitched for the strong Owls baseball teams of the late 1970s and worked with his future wife Kris in the residence halls. Their son Mike also pitched for the Owls' baseball team, and daughter Julia was an all-conference and all-ECAC player as a pitcher and first-baseman for the Owls softball team.

“We’ve been blessed…to watch both of our children play college sports, and getting to watch it at our alma mater has made it even better.”

When Julia was asked about her decision to become an Owl, she said it was an easy choice. “I didn’t even tour Westfield. I had been here so much with my family during baseball games. We’d come out twice a week when Mike played.”

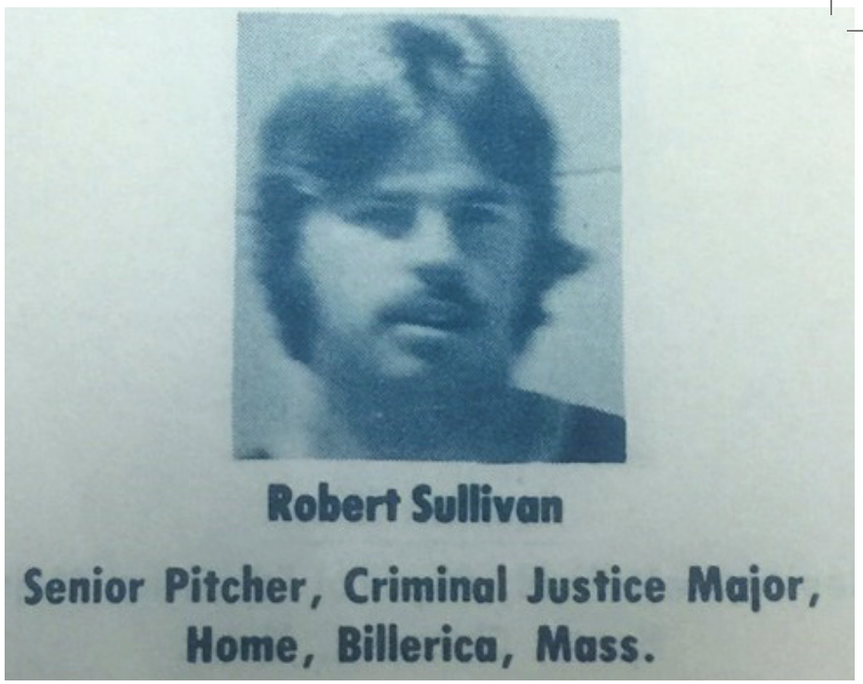
“My experience was 100 percent positive,” said Mike about his four years at Westfield State. “Almost all of my good friends still come from the teams that I played on at Westfield, and I have experiences and memories that will last forever. I can’t say enough good things about Westfield, as I think I am a better person and a better ball player because of going to Westfield State.”

“I knew my dad played at Westfield, but it wasn’t until high school and we started going to see the Owls play at Mass Maritime did I start to think about seeing myself play in that jersey,” Mike continued.

Bob reiterated the family’s feelings for Westfield State. “We’ve been blessed… to watch both of our children play college sports, and getting to watch it at our alma mater has made it even better.”

“It’s been great, and really given us a chance to reconnect with the school,” added Kris, who also shared that she has been getting together with college friends twice a year for nearly 40 years.

The naming comes on the heels of a significant renovation to the playing surface at Sullivan Field which improved the playability of the surface and included a freshening up of the dugouts and surrounding facilities to showcase Owl pride.













WINNING SOCCER TEAM HONORED *at* 50TH REUNION

Westfield State University welcomed back members of the 1974 men's soccer team for a reunion event in September of 2024, to coincide with the 50th anniversary of their run to the NCAA Division III Final Four, and the induction of both the team and their coach, the late John Kurty, to the MASCAC Hall of Fame. More than a dozen members of team attended and were joined by Rita Kurty, coach Kurty's wife, and their adult children, Jack and Carol, for the ceremonies. At halftime of the men's soccer match, President Thompson presented the team and the Kurtys with their awards, and the team gave President Thompson a check for several thousand dollars gifted by their teammates in support of the Owls' current men's soccer team.



SPECIAL EVENTS CELEBRATE
Community Connections







The Irish Tenors Bring a Festive Holiday Concert

In December 2024, the internationally acclaimed trio, The Irish Tenors, graced Westfield State University with their celebrated Irish repertoire, delivering an evening of soul-stirring music and festive holiday charm. This dazzling event was made possible through the generous collaboration of community members and local businesses, whose collective support brought this world-class performance to the heart of Westfield State's campus. Dr. Linda Thompson, President of Westfield State, highlighted the honor of being able to host the trio.

> *"The Irish Tenors have performed for presidents and prime ministers and millions of people throughout the world, and we were so fortunate to have them here at Westfield State University. The history of Ireland and its impact on our culture here in Western Massachusetts is very much appreciated and well-established. Our communities and neighborhoods are made up of thousands of people who understand and cherish the heritage and history of the Emerald Isle and have direct ancestry to its people. We are committed to developing and maintaining our cultural ties to Ireland and are further creating opportunities for student, faculty, and alumni exchanges of experience and learning. The spirited, engaging, and meaningful performance of these musicians, along with our own pianist Scott Bailey, was delightful and will likely resonate with audience members for decades to come."*

THE 2ND ANNUAL

Dora D. Robinson SPEAKER SERIES

IN HONOR OF WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH



Featuring

VICTORIA CHRISTOPHER MURRAY







Dora Robinson Speaker Series

In March 2025, Westfield State University hosted the second annual Dora D. Robinson Speaker Series, welcoming award-winning author Victoria Christopher Murray to campus to speak to a crowd of students, faculty, staff, and community members eager to learn from the acclaimed writer. Murray is a *New York Times* and *USA Today* bestselling author of more than 30 novels, some of which have been made into *Lifetime Channel* movies. She has been recognized with the Phyllis Wheatley Trailblazer Award, the Delta Sigma Theta Osceola Award for Excellence in the Arts, Go On Girl! Book Club Author of the Year, eleven African American Literary Awards and five NAACP Image Award nominations. In 2016, she won the Image Award for Outstanding Literature for her social commentary novel, *Stand Your Ground*. *The Personal Librarian* was a Good Morning America Book Club selection and named a Best Book of the Year by NPR. *The First Ladies* was Target's 2023 Book of the Year.

The well-attended event was presented in partnership with the YWCA of Western Massachusetts, the Greater Springfield Chapter of The Links, Incorporated, the Springfield Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Incorporated, the Public Health Institute of Western Massachusetts, and Liberty Bank.



Westfield State Keeper of the Dream Honorees: Dr. Carlton Pickron, Retired Vice President of Student Affairs; Marjorie Rodriguez, Assistant Director for Student Access and Support for the Office of Belonging, Inclusion, and Learning; and WSU President Linda Thompson



Westfield, MA Keeper of the Dream Honorees: Police Sergeant Juanita Mejias and Firefighter Jon-Randel Quarles with Mayor Michael McCabe



West Springfield, MA Keeper of the Dream Honorees: Matt Griffin, IHD Supervisor and Girls Track and Field Coach, and Onix Cruz, Lead Custodian, from the West Springfield Public Schools with Superintendent Stefania Raschilla



Keeper of the Dream Scholarship Recipients: Troy Thomas '26, Bronwyn Pinsly '26, Catrina Casting '26, Mekhi Bowen '25



Keeper of the Dream

Westfield State University, in collaboration with the Cities of Westfield and West Springfield, held its second annual Keeper of the Dream Dinner in February 2025. The event honored those who continue Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s legacy by pursuing social justice and inclusive excellence. Westfield Bank and Westfield Gas & Electric sponsored the event, which started with a VIP reception before the cocktail hour, formal dinner and awards ceremony.

President Linda Thompson delivered opening remarks, reflecting on the institution's commitment to accessibility and equity, values championed by its founder, Horace Mann. "When Horace Mann founded our institution in 1839, he did so with the understanding that students of any creed, color, gender, or financial standing should have full access to a quality education," she said. "The teachings and influence of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. remind us that we have a sacred and solemn duty as educators in creating tomorrow's leaders with equality of opportunity in mind."

The evening's keynote address was delivered by Nettie Washington Douglass, the great-great-granddaughter of Frederick Douglass and great-granddaughter of Booker T. Washington. As the co-founder and Chairwoman Emerita of Frederick Douglass Family Initiatives, Washington Douglass has devoted her professional life to combating human exploitation, promoting education, and fighting for racial equity. In addition to volunteering with the United Negro College Fund, she is a former civil servant from Atlanta, Georgia and a member of the Friends of Frederick Douglass Board of Directors.

The Westfield State University Foundation had the honor of recognizing four students for their dedication to community service and leadership in promoting equality and justice by honoring them with the inaugural Keeper of the Dream Scholarships.

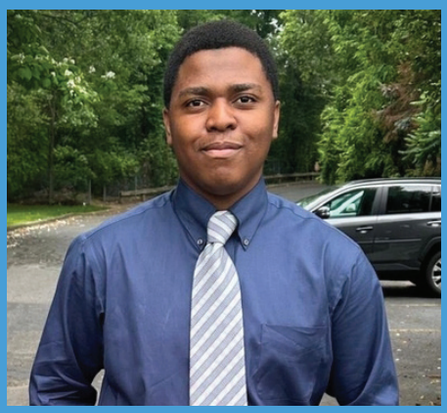
Westfield State University Foundation Scholarship



"This scholarship will help me continue my education that fits my needs as a student with learning disabilities, allowing me to graduate with a degree that I hope will lead to a career in writing and telling stories of people with disabilities or chronic illnesses to spread awareness and hope."

SICILIA CAMPBELL '28
ENGLISH

Westfield State University Foundation Scholarship



"I am very thankful and honored to have been selected as a recipient of this generous scholarship. It is difficult to balance my academics with working to pay my tuition. I will not take this opportunity for granted as this award brings me closer to achieving my academic goals."

KUDAKWASHE MANYAWA '28
BIOLOGY

BJ Bourdon / Zonta Scholarship



"My dream is to open an autism center in Jamaica. My goal is to use the education and skills I gain here to help fill that gap and make a difference in the lives of those who need it most. This scholarship is more than just financial support; it's encouragement to keep going. I am deeply grateful."

CHARLENE PINNOCK WILSON '26
MANAGEMENT



Westfield State University Foundation Scholarship



"I'm so grateful for those before my generation who care to make an impact on future generations and my fellow students. You inspire me to one day contribute the same way you do! I appreciate this more than anyone could ever understand."

SPENCER EDWARDS '26
MOVEMENT SCIENCE, SPANISH

Randi M. Lemenager '17 Scholarship



"I am truly honored to be selected as a recipient of this meaningful award. It is a privilege to carry forward the legacy of Randi M. Lemenager, and I am committed to upholding the values this scholarship represents. Thank you for your generosity and support. "

KEORY BERRIEN '27
HEALTH SCIENCES

Mary & Herman MacDougall Scholarship



"After graduation, I hope to work in a school helping students with disabilities and show them that a disability doesn't define them. Your support motivates me to work harder and give back to the community just as you have given to me."

SAVANNAH SOUSA '27
ELEMENTARY & SPECIAL EDUCATION, ADVANCED MATHEMATICS

BUILDING A *Brighter Future*
ONE OWL AT A TIME


2017
Westfield State University
2017
2018
2019
2016
2019
2018
2016
2015
2015
2014
2024
2014
2024





DONORS *and* STUDENTS CELEBRATE *a* DECADE *of* SUCCESS

For ten years, the Westfield State University Foundation has brought donors, students, and supporters together in honor of the academic achievements and acts of service recognized by the scholarships awarded each year. The "Sweet Success" reception has been a highlight of the fall semester for all guests, giving everyone a moment to connect over sweet treats and a program that features scholarship recipients, faculty supporters, and and our generous donors who make these critical contributions to benefit Westfield State students.

"We look forward to attending this event every year," noted one guest. "We love meeting the students in an informal setting that really lets you talk to them about their goals and achievements. They're always so impressive!"

WESTFIELD STATE STUDENTS *and* STAFF LEARN *and* SERVE *in* INTERNATIONAL IMMERSION EXPERIENCE





The Interfaith Chaplains Council and Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers brought students and staff to Montego Bay during Spring Break to address social, political, and economic challenges linking Jamaica to the U.S. Through service, prayer, and fellowship, the group established global cooperation with Jamaican participants while visiting cultural and historical sites, nature preserves, and a care center for elderly individuals.

> *"I can say that the trip taught me more about myself and my faith than I ever imagined. I met beautiful people, ate delicious food, engaged in prayer and reflections, and learned about the incredible history of Jamaica. Every interaction I had and every excursion we experienced taught me how powerful it is to love and learn from one another."*

> *"During one of our conversations, Father Savage shared something that stuck with me: 'You have to experience it to be able to give truth to it.' Knowledge alone isn't enough—we need lived experience to guide and inspire others. This journey has moved me to want every one of my students to have an immersion experience of their own. I want them to see beyond their own perspective and understand the world in a broader, more meaningful way."*

> *"I was moved by our visit to Mount Alvernia All-Girls High School. They were attentive and welcoming as we joined their morning routine. What struck me was the deep respect for education—both from the students and the educators. It was clear that learning was valued and teachers were honored.*
>
> *This continued when we engaged with students at the University of the West Indies. Hearing them talk about balancing academics, work, campus life, and family challenges resonated with me deeply —they face the same struggles my students at Westfield State do."*



Annual INTERFAITH CENTER BREAKFAST *Brings* COMMUNITY TOGETHER *Under the Theme of* BELONGING

The Albert and Amelia Ferst Interfaith Center hosted guest speaker Eliot Papadakos, Former Core Organizer of Jewish Voice for Peace in Western Massachusetts, to deliver inspirational remarks. Honorees included Sandra Mackler from Congregation Ahavas Achim and Volunteer Coordinator at Our Community Table Soup Kitchen and Bridgette Perry '27, Co-President of the Yoga and Meditation Club and Resident Assistant at Davis Hall.

> *For me, if we are to belong to each other, we must truly try to see each other fully and stand with each other fully. I cannot assume to know you, unless I am curious, and listen deeply. Only then can I be ready to walk alongside you—when I can really hear you and make it a shared venture.*
>
> —ELIOT PAPADAKOS



Sandra Mackler, Interfaith Community Service Award, and Father Warren Savage



Bridgette Perry, Interfaith Student Leadership Award, and Father Warren Savage

ALBERT AND AMELIA FERST
INTERFAITH CENTER
BREAKFAST

SAVE THE DATE
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 2026 *at* **7:30 a.m.**
Scanlon Banquet Hall, Westfield State University



INAUGURAL INTERFAITH *and* RIDE INNOVATION CHALLENGE

Spring 2025 saw a first of its kind collaboration between the Albert and Amelia Ferst Interfaith Center, the RIDE Center, and the Westfield State University Foundation. Students were invited to use the RIDE Center to design installations that foster the Interfaith Meditation Garden's mission of creating a sense of belonging and community.

Student teams engaged in the process of advancing ideas from theory to practice, including: researching and communicating their proposals in a professional setting; taking constructive criticisms; working effectively in teams; and learning to fit their concepts into the greater vision and mission of the stakeholders they are serving. They learned about project management, design, iteration, and how to use various tools and software to bring their ideas to life.







RIDE Research Innovation Design Entrepreneurial

PARTICIPATING TEAMS & PROJECTS

TEAM KMY LEADS:
Little Free Library Houses

Mayelky Cordero Plascencia '28

Kimberly Tamay '28

Yariana Lopez '28

TEAM MAR:
Meditation Swings

Maria Fernanda Avalos Escobedo '27

Aaya Almayahi '27

Rachel Brewer-Karimi '27

TEAM ALEX:
Water Feature

Alexandra Zajko '28



Honorees (L-R): John Deveney ’85, NCIS Special Agent in Boston; Dr. Alice Perry, Westfield State University; Melvin Arroyo M’03, Chief Probation Officer in Palmer Court; John Moran ’79, Special Agent and Federal Air Marshal; Michael McCabe ’84, M’94, Mayor of Westfield, former Westfield Police Department and Westfield State Adjunct Faculty; Gregory Hennick ’07, Acting Chief of the Provincetown Police Department; Bill Chase ’78, Founder and CEO of Sound Judgment Solutions; and David Lambert ’81, Director of Roger Williams University’s Justice System Training and Research Institute.

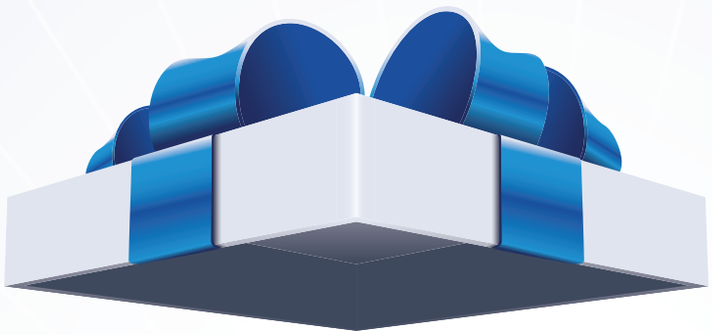
ALUMNI *and* FACULTY *Inducted into* CRIMINAL JUSTICE ALUMNI HALL *of* FAME

In April 2025, seven alumni and one faculty member were inducted into the Criminal Justice Alumni Hall of Fame in recognition of their outstanding contributions to the field, including law enforcement, public service, and legal advocacy at the local, state, and federal levels. Notable amongst the honors was the presentation of the



Dr. Victor Ascollilo Lifetime Achievement Award to Dr. Alice Perry, Westfield State faculty, former state prosecutor and an advocate of women in law enforcement.

For over 50 years, Westfield State’s criminal justice program has been a leader in the Commonwealth, offering undergraduate and graduate students the knowledge and experience to excel in their careers.



YOUR GIFT MATTERS

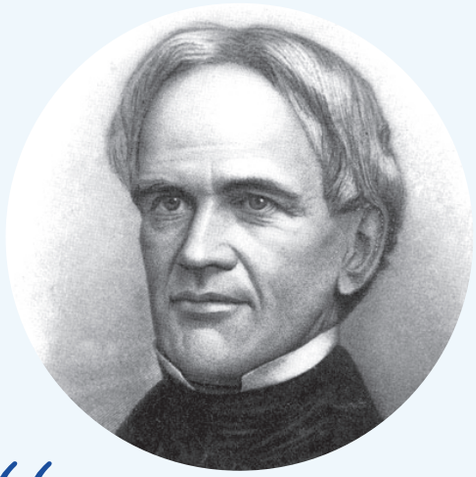
Make a Big Impact with a Future Gift



When you include Westfield State University in your estate plan, your generosity supports students and the University through advocacy, fundraising, engagement and stewardship.

Planned giving offers creative ways to give through not only cash assets but also life insurance, real estate, and retirement plan assets. We understand that you may have questions about your options which is why we offer a planned giving website where you can find comprehensive estate planning kits, sample language for your will, and a gift illustrator tool that will provide a personalized look at how your gift options can support your financial goals.

We thank those whose estate gifts are ensuring that the University can impact the students we serve well into the future.



“Education alone can conduct us to that enjoyment which is, at once, best in quality and infinite in quantity.”

JOIN THE HORACE MANN SOCIETY

Horace Mann recognized that “a different world cannot be built by indifferent people.” He knew that education could change society and he championed an educational model built of service and scholarship.

Membership in the Horace Mann Legacy Society reflects Westfield State’s founder’s belief in the value of service. It recognizes those who have remembered the University through bequests, annuities, charitable trusts and other methods of planned giving.

Horace Mann Society membership has no minimum gift level, age, dues, or obligations. Members receive special invitations to campus events which demonstrate the variety and richness of the Westfield State experience and opportunities to meet with students to learn first-hand how your gifts make a difference.

CARLTON PICKRON: MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Dr. Carlton Pickron made his professional home at Westfield State for more than 35 years. Highly admired and commonly known to students as “CP the VP”, Carlton made his mark across the University, most importantly with the students. As Carlton and his wife, Lisa, contemplated their estate plans, they knew that a gift from their will would have a lasting and meaningful impact on the students. As an athlete and an avid supporter of the Owls, a portion of their estate will be directed toward Westfield State Athletics, as well as the Sankofa Organization on campus which helps ensure that diversity and inclusion will continue to grow at the University.



Planned giving allows you the freedom to support the areas of Westfield State University that mean the most to you and your family.

CONTACT US TODAY TO DISCUSS YOUR DREAMS FOR LASTING IMPACT.

Bill Hynes, *Executive Director, Westfield State University Foundation, Inc.*
(413) 572-8647 | whynes@westfield.ma.edu

Learn more!

TAKE FLIGHT *with the* Westfield State **Alumni Association**



Learn more!

Westfield State University's alumni travel program lets you take flight with fellow Owls for enriching cultural experiences in some of the world's most beautiful locations. These expertly designed programs offer you access to sightseeing packages, deluxe accommodations, and the ease of mind knowing you can relax and enjoy seeing the world.

Make plans now to join us in 2026!



A Culinary Journey Through Tuscany | SEPTEMBER 2025

"*It was a fantastic trip, the tour guide was excellent, the weather was perfect, everything was so beautiful, and our group all enjoyed each other's company. Our Italian journey was a culinary tour which we loved. It was very convenient to have almost everything covered in our tour cost and it was all planned to make the most of our time there.*

And I can't forget to mention the wine! It was included in our package and they just kept pouring until you said stop — and none of us said stop!

This was my first vacation as part of a tour, and I hope they didn't spoil me for future tours by setting the bar too high. The experience was top notch and I'd recommend it to anyone!"

—JOANNE LEIGHTON, WESTFIELD STATE UNIVERSITY, INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT



Treasures of Ireland | APRIL 2026

From lively Dublin pubs to the breathtaking Cliffs of Moher, from a traditional Jaunting Car ride in Killarney to an unforgettable overnight stay in a Castle Hotel. Along the way, enjoy authentic Irish experiences including a Medieval Banquet at Bunratty Castle, a whiskey tasting, and the chance to kiss the famous Blarney Stone.



Extraordinary Iceland | SEPTEMBER 2026

Explore the other-worldly beauty of Iceland with visits to the cultural sites in Reykjavik, ancient lava flows, the Golden Waterfall cascading 100-feet in a double cascade, and the steaming waters of the glowing Blue Lagoon with optional excursions to search for the Northern Lights.

THANK YOU

for an impactful 2024-2025

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

$2.3+ million to support Westfield State University programs & students



428 scholarships were awarded totaling **over $442,000**



Owl Athletics raised over **$120,000** to support student athletes



Nearly $140,000 unrestricted funds raised for most essential needs

Give a HOOT
Westfield State University's
ANNUAL DAY OF GIVING

March 27-28, 2025

Exceeded our goals of over $100,000 from 400 donors!

$101,727 received from 492 donors (564 gifts)

11% INCREASE

in Gifts

$1,687,168

up from $1,520,171 in FY2024

WESTFIELD STATE UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION, INC.

(A COMPONENT OF WESTFIELD STATE UNIVERSITY)

Statements of Financial Position

June 30, 2025

ASSETS

	2025	2024
Assets:		
Cash and equivalents	**$46,482**	$592,672
Restricted cash and equivalents	**2,244,877**	2,441,596
Unconditional promises to give, net	**178,256**	264,270
Investments	**21,601,958**	18,108,003
Other assets	**3,223**	12,065
Property and equipment, net	**19,533**	27,035
Property held for future development	**360,877**	360,877
Total Assets	**$25,055,206**	$21,806,518

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Liabilities:		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	**$15,089**	$7,767
Deferred revenue	**15,830**	27,765
Agency funds held	**258,683**	279,328
Total Liabilities	**$289,602**	$314,860
Net Assets:		
Without donor restrictions	**24,020,906**	20,796,379
With donor restrictions	**744,698**	695,279
Total Net Assets	**24,765,604**	21,491,658
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	**$25,055,206**	$21,806,518

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 westfield.alumni.org/our-community.

Celebrating
WESTFIELD STATE 185
1839 ★ 2024

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.

westfield.alumni.org/our-community