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2 area universities receive millions in donations

Huntington: \$56.6 million in campaign; Trine: \$5 million gift

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The Journal Gazette

Two northeast Indiana universities Tuesday announced millions in donations - including a seven-year Huntington University fund drive that raised \$22 million more than anticipated.

Huntington's Step Forward campaign, which started in 2014, yielded \$56.6 million, the largest amount in the university's history, officials said during a news confer-

ence. Trine University announced a single \$5 million donation toward its new \$40 million Fort Wayne campus being developed in cooperation with Parkview Health.

Huntington's campaign was designed to mark the 125th year of the institution started in 1897. Tom Clounie, Huntington's fundraising committee chairman, said the campaign began in 2014 with a \$34 million goal for capital projects, academic programs and contributions toward endowment and

scholarship funds. In 2019, the goal was increased to \$40 million, and that goal was exceeded as well.

Since 2014, Huntington has invested in 22 capital projects. They include a \$4.3 million renovation of the student center known as The Hub, the \$1.2 million construction of the Don Strauss Animal Science Education Center and \$1.3 million in renovations to the Forest Glen Park baseball facility.



Huntington University President Sherilyn Emberton on Tuesday discusses a 7-year fundraising campaign goal that was exceeded by \$22 million.

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Courtesy

DONATIONS

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An \$800,000 Welcome Center as part of the Merilat Center for the Arts, the Ware Plant Science Production Facility at \$500,000 and a reconfigured nursing lab at \$300,000 were also among the projects.

The campaign also increased the endowment by \$5.8 million, \$1.8 million over the goal. New academic programs were started - doctoral and bachelor's degree programs in occupational therapy, a bachelor's degree program in engineering, a master's degree of business administration and several degrees in agriculture.

The Forester Fund for student scholarships received \$4.3 million and \$1.2 million went toward academic facility improvements. Staff salary and benefits improvements amounted to \$4.8 million.

Officials said nine campaign donations were for \$1 million or more.

University President Sherilyn Emberton said the campaign resulted in nearly 400 additional Huntington graduates, while overall student enrollment increased by 12.7% to 1,353 by last fall.

"That's a powerful statement to the steps of faith tak-

en by so many since 2014," Emberton said.

The university is now beginning a new five-year strategic plan. Forever Forester, to continue development and student support. No fundraising goals have been announced for the new plan.

Trine's donation from Rick L. and Vicki James of The James Foundation adds to \$2.5 million received earlier this month. Rick James is a Trine graduate and chairman of the university's board of trustees.

Opening in fall 2024, the Fort Wayne campus will allow new programs including occupational therapy, respiratory therapy, medical science and emergency medical sciences. Students will also learn at the Parkview Mirro Center for Research and Innovation's Simulated Patient Care Center, which includes mock surgery and emergency room suites and exam and patient rooms.

The Fort Wayne campus building also will contain a library, bookstore, gathering area and offices for academic support and counseling services.

The \$2.5 million contribution came from alumnus and board of trustees member Larry Reiners and his wife, Judy, of Tulsa, Oklahoma.

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