The mission of University Advancement is to build relationships through meaningful engagements that foster pride, encourage advocacy, and promote private support for Western Washington University.
FY 2019-2020 HIGHLIGHTS

GIFTS OF NOTE

The first installment of $250,000 towards a $1 MILLION pledge by the PACCAR Foundation for the PACCAR Professorship

$550,000 from two realized estate gifts for scholarships

More than $200,000 from Bagley and Virginia Wright Foundation plus $100K from Luce Foundation for sculpture collection

$115,000 from Karen Sloss towards the Jewish Professorship

First installment of $100,000 towards a $300,000 commitment by the East Seattle Foundation to support an initiative for former foster youth who are students at Western. This foundation is funded by former WWU Foundation Board member Alan Frazier.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

COMPUTER SCIENCE AND ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING FACILITY

TOTAL GOAL $20M

COMMITMENTS TO DATE $12,160,000

INCLUDING NEW GIFT $500,000 from the Sunderland Foundation

REMAINING FUNDS TO BE RAISED $7,340,000 by late fall 2020
UNIVERSITY ADVANCEMENT

ALL CONTRIBUTIONS AND GIFTS IN KIND BY YEAR

VALUE OF TOTAL ENDOWMENT ASSETS UNDER MANAGEMENT

SUPPORT TO THE UNIVERSITY

Total Endowment Assets Under Management includes assets owned directly by the Foundation as well as endowed assets managed by the Foundation on behalf of the university.

Over the past 10 years, the amount of support provided by the Foundation to the university has grown from just over $4.0 million annually to well in excess of $8.0 million today.
Western’s fifth annual Give Day, held on May 28, was an unprecedented success thanks to our caring community.

A record number of donors and dollars

2,400 DONORS
gave a total of

$780,000

(including matching funds)

Student Emergency Fund

730 GIFTS totaling $125,000

To date, 163 students have received more than $100,000 in Student Emergency grants

“*This act of philanthropy inspires me to work harder and achieve my goals so that one day I may be the one donating to students in need.*”

Spencer Logan (‘21), aka “Victor Viking,” Political Science

“I couldn’t afford college without this. The little extra help really goes a long way.”

Li Hill (‘21) East Asian Studies

Western Stands for Racial Equity Fund

116 GIFTS totaling $15,000
WWU Donors Journey to Mars
On July 20, members of the President’s, 1893, and Old Main societies, and friends of the College of Science and Engineering embarked on the mission of a lifetime to the red planet during a webinar featuring Associate Professor of Planetary Science Dr. Melissa Rice. Following an introduction by President Randhawa, Rice and her team, including Darian Dixon (’18), Kathleen Hoza (’19), Amanda Rudolph (’18), Christina Seeger (graduate student), and Katherine Winchell (’17), discussed the mission, their research on the Perseverance rover, and how Western can continue to support humanity’s exploration into the final frontier. Rice, who leads the Western Mars Lab, helped design the rover’s Mastcam-Z color camera system. Launched into space on July 30, Perseverance will explore the planet for signs of ancient life and collect rock and soil samples.

View the webinar: alumni.wwu.edu/event/journey-mars-wwu
For upcoming virtual events, please visit: alumni.wwu.edu/all-events
To view recordings of online webinars and events, please visit: alumni.wwu.edu/past-events
Learn more about the Western Mars Lab here: ow.ly/JlGD50AFHja

Our online community for professional connections, career growth opportunities, shared interests & mentoring opportunities.
Members have sent nearly 900 messages and made more than 200 connections.
Join today & start connecting:
weconnect.wwu.edu
UNIVERSITY ADVANCEMENT

YOU’RE INVITED!

WWU ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

PAINT B’HAM BLUE for WWU

Alumni are invited to welcome our incoming students & show their support by sharing words of advice, tips, or encouragement here:

alumni.wwu.edu/paintbhamblue

We’ll present each message on the Paint website for all to see.

WHEN
September 23 at 7 p.m.

WHERE
Livestream. See website for details.

WHAT
Enjoy a captivating presentation featuring notable alumni, iconic Bellingham locations, a special performance and some surprises.
We Got This America!
Meet the CEO and Western Alumnus Who’s Changing the World One T-Shirt at a Time
By Yara Clark (’22)

Brist Manufacturing designs and manufactures apparel for companies and brands around the world. What makes this local, Bellingham-based company unique is that Brist is dedicated to using sustainable systems to create apparel in order to change the textile industry.

CEO Brendan Pape (’11) is a Western Washington University graduate, donor, and member of the WWU Alumni Association. He credits Western as not only the root of his education, but as the foundation for his company.

At Western, Pape and his colleagues, who are also Viking alumni, didn’t just learn about running a business, with the help of their faculty and fellow students, they started one.

As a student, Pape worked as an intern at the IDEA lab in downtown Bellingham. “They helped me learn about bylaws, starting a business, and their framework. Being surrounded by professionals to lean on and bounce ideas off of was really a turning point for me,” Pape said.

When he was a sophomore at Western, he launched a small clothing business called Disidual. Disidual aimed to create textile products in a sustainable way to limit waste. Pape and his peers learned from the IDEA lab and by the experience of selling products to peers and to the university.

“We wanted to help other businesses create brands with the sustainable system we had created.” Pape explained, referring to the need for a sustainable system to create textiles and minimize waste. “The textile industry as a whole is the second biggest polluter next to the oil industry. Over-production is a problem because large brands are required to overbuy which feeds over consumerism.”

Pape and his colleagues got to work in order to solve this issue together. They designed a system where they develop fewer products with a quicker turnaround time. This allows them to replenish their stocks at a faster rate when needed.

“Throughout my journey at Western, the school was so supportive. One of our biggest successes was when the school agreed to sell our products in the bookstore. The store manager helped us learn how to nail things down so that we could go out to other businesses and clients and really know what we were doing,” Pape said.
IMPACT STORY

The faculty at Western also gave Disidual the platform it needed to grow into something bigger, but it was not just faculty members who gave Pape and his peers a boost. The student body provided opportunities for Disidual to sell and test their products, designs, and marketing strategies.

“The students really helped this take off with their support and resources, and through their articles written in the Western Front,” according to Pape.

Brist Manufacturing was founded in 2010 with its headquarters located in Bellingham. The company is dedicated to creating sustainable products with a quick turnaround time for other businesses. Pape and his colleagues also assist clients on the creative side, offering product design.

About one-third of Brist’s employees are Western Washington University graduates.

“I think just coming out of college, you come with this level of being very unbiased, and I think that has been extremely important to Brist. Experience is important, but inexperience is just as important. It makes you think more openly about how things work and how to solve a problem,” said Pape.

Pape created long-term bonds at Western that he will never forget. He continues to stay in touch with some of his favorite teachers, including marketing professor Dan Purdy, and engineering professor John Musassey.

“I came out of Western not just with an awesome business, but with a huge community of lifelong friends. It’s cool to see what they are able to accomplish,” Pape said.

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, Brist has been giving back to local businesses. The company started a campaign called “We Got This America.” When businesses sign up, they sell shirts emblazoned with this theme, and then receive 50% of the revenue.

“The goal was to encourage and remind people that we still have the ability to support local businesses and to remind them that they can be super impactful in their local communities,” said Pape.

So far, over 150 businesses have signed up for this campaign including Pure Bliss, Red Horn Brewery (located in Austin, TX), and San Juan Seltzer.

Pape planted his roots at Western and found the support he needed to create a successful company. Now, he gives back to the community in times of need and remains a role model for students today.

He offered this advice to Western students and alumni as they work through this time: “Think creatively, and move fast. There is always a time to plan, and during times like this, you can’t be overly ‘planful; you have to be flexible with all of this uncertainty. Think outside of the box and be agile.”

Brist is currently partnering with the WWU Alumni Association to manufacture a Paint B’ham Blue welcome kit for new students that will include a neck gaiter, stickers, a coupon book, Viking crowns, and more.