

UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA FOUNDATION

ANNUAL REPORT FOR DONORS

FISCAL YEAR 2025 | JULY 1, 2024 - JUNE 30, 2025





UNITED IN PURPOSE

HONORING YOUR ENDURING PHILANTHROPY

I am pleased to share the University of Montana Foundation's Fiscal Year 2025 Annual Report with you.

This past year, you and other members of our donor community helped shape the future of UM. Your generous support bolstered faculty positions and academic programs and helped UM offer life-changing scholarships. With your investment, UM is creating opportunities for students and driving excellence across campus.

The year 2025 holds special significance for the UM Foundation, as we celebrate our 75th anniversary. This celebration is a time to thank you — our donors — for contributing to UM's achievements and growth over the decades.

In this report, you'll find information that reflects the collective power of philanthropy at UM — and how every gift, large and small, helps advance student success, research, creative scholarship and community engagement.

As we reflect on fiscal year (FY) 2025, one thing is clear: your support is essential to UM's continued momentum. Thank you for being a vital part of our giving community. Together, united in purpose, we are building a strong and vibrant future for the University of Montana.

With heartfelt gratitude,

Cindy Williams

Cindy Williams,
President and CEO
University of Montana Foundation



The UM Foundation team is here to help connect your philanthropic passion with opportunities on campus. If you would like to learn more about how to make an even greater impact through your giving to the University of Montana Foundation **please contact us.**

FY 2025 PHILANTHROPIC CONTRIBUTIONS TO SUPPORT UM

TOTAL

\$68.5M

BY CATEGORY

\$35.7M

Academic Programs and University Operating Support

\$15.2M

Private Grants

\$14.8M

Scholarships, Graduate Fellowships and Other Student Support

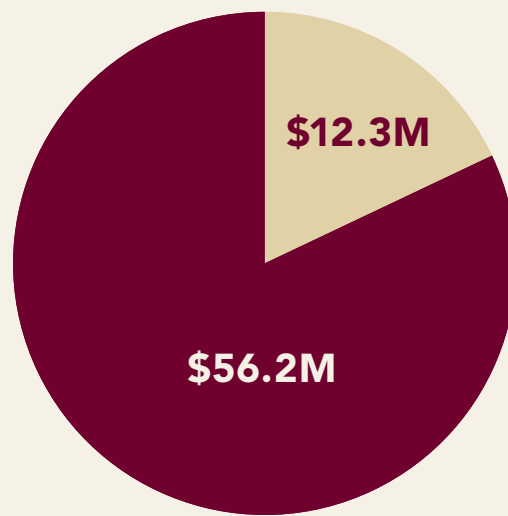
\$2.2M

Faculty and Staff Support

\$0.6M

Facilities

BY GIFT TYPE



Endowed

Current Gifts

The UM Foundation reports annual philanthropic contribution totals using global reporting standards developed by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE). In keeping with these standards, the philanthropic contribution total includes all gifts, pledge commitments and planned giving intentions received by the UM Foundation along with philanthropic contributions made direct to the University during the fiscal year.

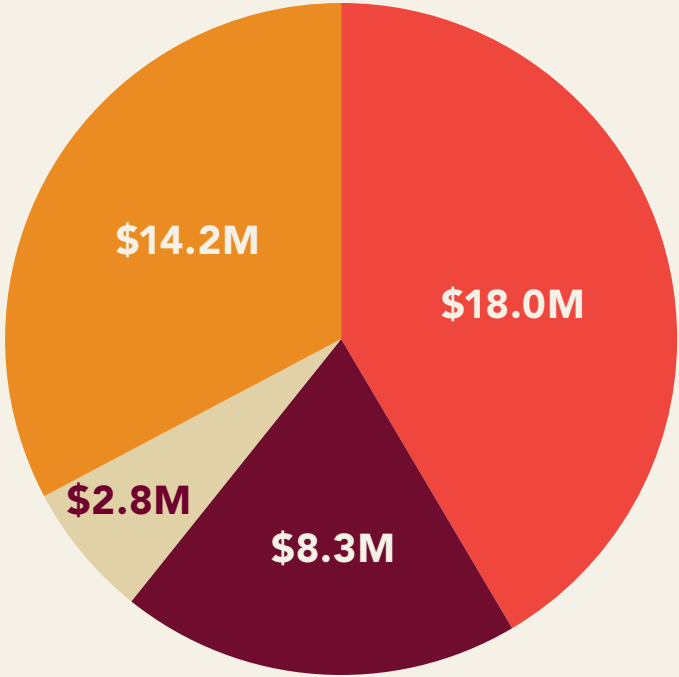


FY 2025 DISTRIBUTIONS TO UM

TOTAL

\$43.3M

BY CATEGORY



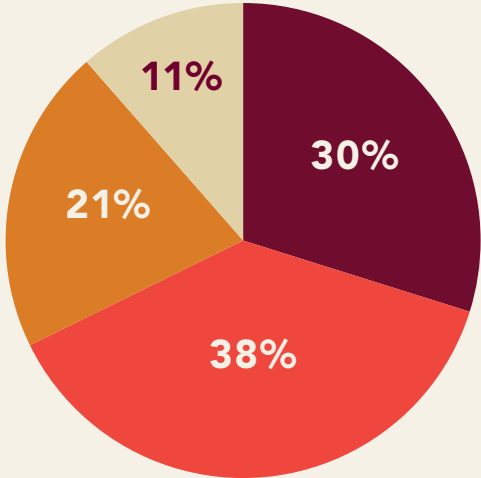
- Academic Programs and University Operating Support
- Scholarships, Graduate Fellowships and Other Student Support
- Faculty and Staff Support
- Facilities



THANK YOU, UM FOUNDATION DONORS

FY 2025 FUNDRAISING BY DONOR TYPE

- Alumni
- Foundations/Corporations
- Friends
- Other



The University of Montana Foundation gratefully honors the generous support of all donors and recognizes donors in our gift societies: the President’s Club, the Lux et Veritas Society and the Oscar J. Craig Heritage Society.



PRESIDENT’S CLUB

UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA FOUNDATION

The President’s Club recognizes donors who give \$1,000 or more in a fiscal year.

2,390 members



LUX ET VERITAS SOCIETY

UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA FOUNDATION

The Lux et Veritas Society recognizes generous donors who have given more than \$1,000,000 to support the University of Montana over their lifetimes.

209 members



OSCAR J. CRAIG HERITAGE SOCIETY

UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA FOUNDATION

The Oscar J. Craig Heritage Society recognizes donors who have provided for the University of Montana in their estate plan.

1,156 members

Member totals as of June 30, 2025.

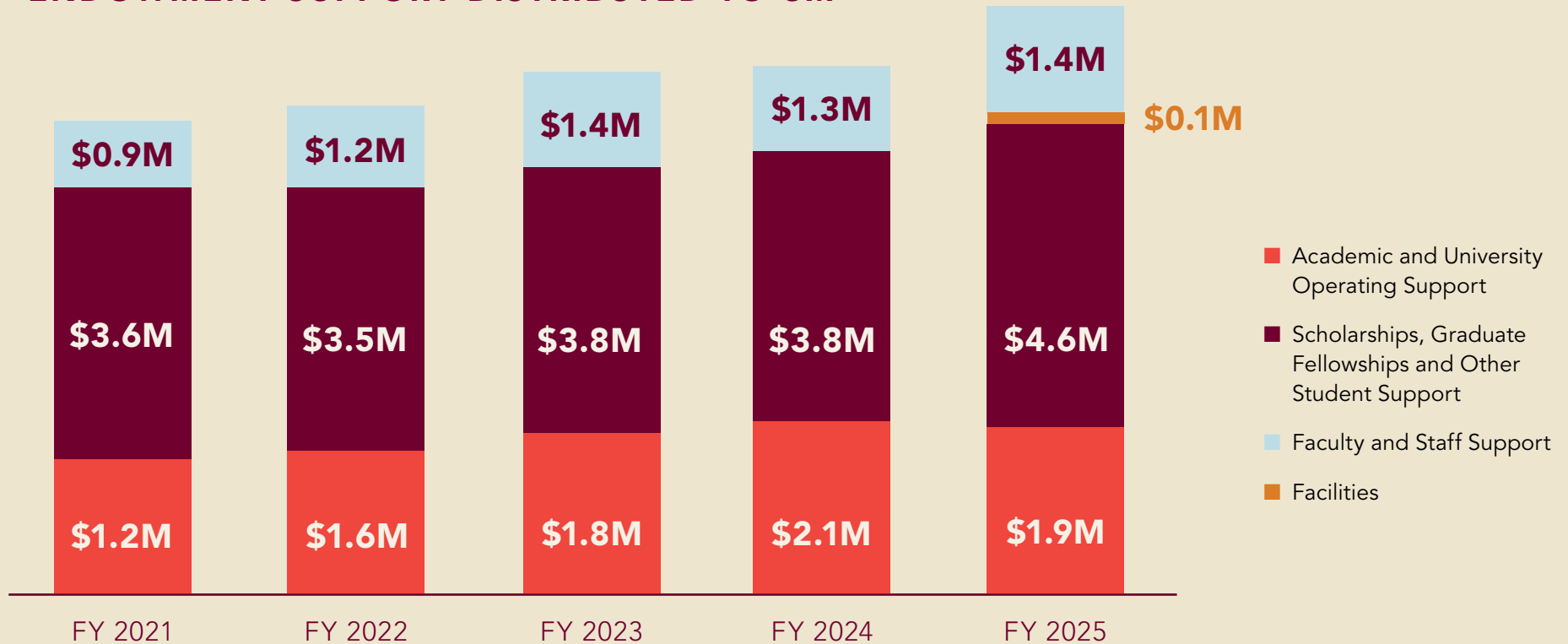
UM FOUNDATION ENDOWMENT

Portfolio value on June 30, 2025

TOTAL

\$324.0M

ENDOWMENT SUPPORT DISTRIBUTED TO UM



CELEBRATING 75 YEARS OF IMPACT

Throughout 2025, the UM Foundation is celebrating our 75th anniversary. As we mark this special milestone, we reflect on an inspiring legacy of giving and impact, honor the donors and volunteers whose generous spirits have changed countless lives and look ahead to the future of philanthropy at UM.

We gratefully recognize our giving community, whose dedication across the decades continues to change lives and communities, and fuel innovation and advancement at UM. Together with you, we are inspired to commemorate our rich history while continuing to shape UM's story with pride, vision and generosity.

"It has been the Foundation's greatest honor over the last 75 years to serve the generous donors of the University of Montana. It is with deep gratitude that this year we recognize the profound impact of their giving to UM."

— Cindy Williams, UM Foundation President and CEO



To enjoy feature stories about the past 75 years, we invite you to visit our website by scanning the QR code.

1950-2025

75
**YEARS OF
IMPACT**

UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA
FOUNDATION

HIGHLIGHTS

UM FOUNDATION DONORS MAKE AN IMPACT AT UM AND BEYOND

► **The State of Mind statewide initiative**, supported in part by the Arthur M. Blank Foundation and the Headwaters Foundation, facilitates necessary public conversations about mental health throughout Montana. UM faculty and students launched the theater and public dialogue tour in 2024 to bring people together and destigmatize conversations about and seeking help for mental health issues. Donors continued to contribute in 2025 to grow the reach and impact of the State of Mind initiative, building on its success. The tour has performed in and hosted events in nearly 30 Montana communities.

"I am so grateful to the forward-thinking folks at the Arthur M. Blank Foundation and Headwaters, who recognize the importance of public discussions around these issues. The stigma around behavioral health often involves a culture of silence. To change that culture of silence into a culture of dialogue, you have to change culture — and to change culture, you need culture work."

— Michael Rohd, State of Mind creator and Co-Lab for Civic Imagination director



► The donor-supported **Flathead Lake Aquatic Research and Education (FLARE) K-12 program**, at the Flathead Lake Biological Station, provides opportunities for thousands of Montana K-12 students to engage in interactive science education. Students and teachers participate in field trips to FLBS, and FLBS educators visit local classrooms, offer after-school programs and sponsor community activities. In FY 2025, FLARE provided immersive educational opportunities for K-12 students from Helena to Whitefish. FLARE educators have co-hosted field trips with the Flathead Lakers, co-hosted the 2025 Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes Mussel Walks, conducted visits to local libraries and organizations in the Flathead area, and taken part in local and state science fairs.

► In April 2025, the College of Business opened **The DEN (Discover, Engage and Network)**, a modern 4,000-square-foot space designed for the next generation of student leaders. Donors funded the upgrades to the former computer lab to provide space for students to study and participate in group projects. The DEN also has dedicated rooms for interviews and networking for business students preparing for the professional world.

"We know that much of a student's success happens outside the classroom – in spaces where ideas are exchanged, friendships are formed, and ambitions take shape. We created the DEN with that spirit in mind — a welcoming, dynamic environment that reflects the energy and drive of our students."

— Suzanne Tilleman, Sprunk and Burnham Endowed Dean, College of Business



State of Mind performers Kendra Mylnechuk Potter, Jackie Vetter and Mack Momberg perform at a Missoula Public Library State of Mind event. Photo by Andy Kemmis.



HIGHLIGHTS

► In FY 2025, donors also funded a **new outdoor concert stage** for Entertainment Management Program students in the College of Business to engage in real-world learning experiences that will help them prepare for careers in event and venue management, sales and promotions. This new stage outside the William and Rosemary Gallagher Building hosts concerts and other events.



Washington Scholars in spring 2025. Photo by Renske Photography.

► In FY 2025, the Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation provided transformative support for a new initiative to bolster future educators. Their gift funds the **Center for the Advancement of Positive Psychology**, which integrates positive psychology as the guiding focus of the Phyllis J. Washington College of Education's curriculum, and the **Phyllis J. Washington Scholars Program**, which helps teachers and counselors launch their careers in Montana. The effort offers a two-pronged solution to some of the state's biggest challenges in K-12 education and behavioral health.

"This gift has the potential to transform K-12 education in Montana, giving our children the support they need to thrive and empowering our educators."

— Seth Bodnar, UM President

► After traveling to Frisco, Texas, in January 2024 to cheer on the University of Montana Grizzlies in the national championship football game, Ren and Kelly Obrigewitch returned home to Missoula determined to lend support to another UM team. Recognizing how hard the band works and their significant contribution to the game day experience, in FY 2025 the couple created a two-part gift for students: **providing endowed scholarships for trumpet players in the Grizzly Marching Band, and purchasing 24 brand new, high-quality trumpets**. They hope their gift will inspire other donors to help the band grow. Their gift will not only strengthen the band's performances but will also enhance the enjoyment of fans.

"There are always tangible ways for donors to help students. This gift will help the band, promote Griz Nation and make the whole game day experience better."

— Kevin Griggs, Grizzly Marching Band director



HIGHLIGHTS

► In FY 2025, **donor funded scholarships totaling over \$8.3 million were awarded to UM students**, providing vital support that ensures more students can attend UM and earn their degrees. Scholarships help provide the financial aid necessary to ensure access for students with financial need and also to recruit students with academic merit, fostering a vibrant and supportive community for learners.



► In 2023, Steve and Jane Bahls established the **Steve and Jane Bahls Professor of Excellence Fund** at the Alexander Blewett III School of Law, aiming to supplement the salaries of multiple select faculty members. In FY 2025, the couple — both former educators themselves — expanded the gift’s impact with a \$1 million endowment, ensuring the law school can support, retain and recruit outstanding legal educators for generations to come. Recipients are Professors Pippa Browde and Jonathon Byington, both of whom are renowned as inspiring professors and valued members of the Montana legal community.

“The faculty at the University of Montana are pretty special, and outstanding faculty can make a difference for students that lasts a lifetime.”

— Steve Bahls

► Donors made gifts of all sizes to more than 50 areas of campus during our sixth annual day of giving, **The Big Give**. In 2025, the Big Give theme “Now and Forever UM” celebrated the legacy of giving at the University and coincided with the UM Foundation’s 75th anniversary. Through their contributions, participants honored UM’s tradition of providing transformative education and opportunities for future leaders.



► The UM Foundation manages more than **1,200 endowed funds** that provide support for students, programs and faculty at the University of Montana. Donor contributions to endowed funds are an investment in the long-term prosperity of the University of Montana.

To read more stories about the impact of private support, visit SupportUM.org or our [Facebook page](#).

UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA FOUNDATION BOARD OF TRUSTEES FY 2025

- Alina Alvarez '99
- Zak Andersen '96
- Steve Bahls
- Diane Barlow '82
- Bill Brenner '79
- Bob Bronson '77
- John Burke '82
- Bobbi Dahl '76
- Andrew Davidson '90
- Scott Dowling '80
- Kathy Eberling '91
- Denise Evans Grills '80
- Paige Franke
- Britney Gilder '09
- Maggie Gleason '02
- Doug James '82
- Matt Levitan '73
- Tony McCormick '07
- Colleen McGuire '79
- Mark Nonnenmacher '83
- Bob Rowe
- John Streich '83
- Jon Swan '03
- Kurt Ursich
- Steve Winslow '86

Board Officers

- Diane Barlow, Chair
- Steve Winslow, Vice Chair
- Bob Bronson, Treasurer
- Jacob MacLean, Secretary

Non-Voting Ex Officio Members

- Seth Bodnar
President, University of Montana
- Jacob MacLean
Board Secretary, UM Foundation
- Cindy Williams
President and CEO, UM Foundation





THANK YOU

Your gifts to the UM Foundation build a strong,
vibrant future for the University of Montana.



The UM Foundation inspires philanthropic support to enhance excellence and opportunity at the University of Montana.

SupportUM.org | P.O. Box 7159 | Missoula, MT 59807 | 800-443-2593 | umfoundation@supportum.org