



Dear supporters, alumni and friends,

Thank you for making a difference in the lives of students at WMU.

You've most likely heard me say that Western Michigan University is a place where students can pursue their passions, work hard and achieve their dreams. Your support provides critical scholarship funding, fuels creativity and research and nurtures Experience-Driven Learning, ensuring that Broncos don't just earn degrees but graduate ready to make their mark on the world.

Because of you, all of this is possible.

As a proud Bronco alumnus, my ties and commitment to this University run deep. Western has made me better in countless ways, as it has for hundreds of thousands of Broncos. It gave me the tools to succeed, the confidence to lead and the opportunity to serve. I know firsthand the power of a WMU education, and I believe every student deserves the same chance to build a life of purpose and possibility. Your generosity demonstrates that you believe this, too.

Thank you again for backing our students and for helping to advance our mission: "so that all may learn." With your partnership, we'll carry forward WMU's legacy and empower every Bronco to charge into a bright future.

With gratitude and Bronco pride,



Russ Kavalhuna
President, Western Michigan University

By the Numbers: Your Impact at WMU

Donors raised a record-setting **\$54 million** last year

Over **14,000 donors** came together to support students

- Over the last year, donor support for academic programs, scholarships and other critical student resources increased by **43%**.
- In FY25 alone, donors gave over **\$29 million** to enrich academic programming and nearly **\$16 million** to uplift Broncos through scholarships and other support services.



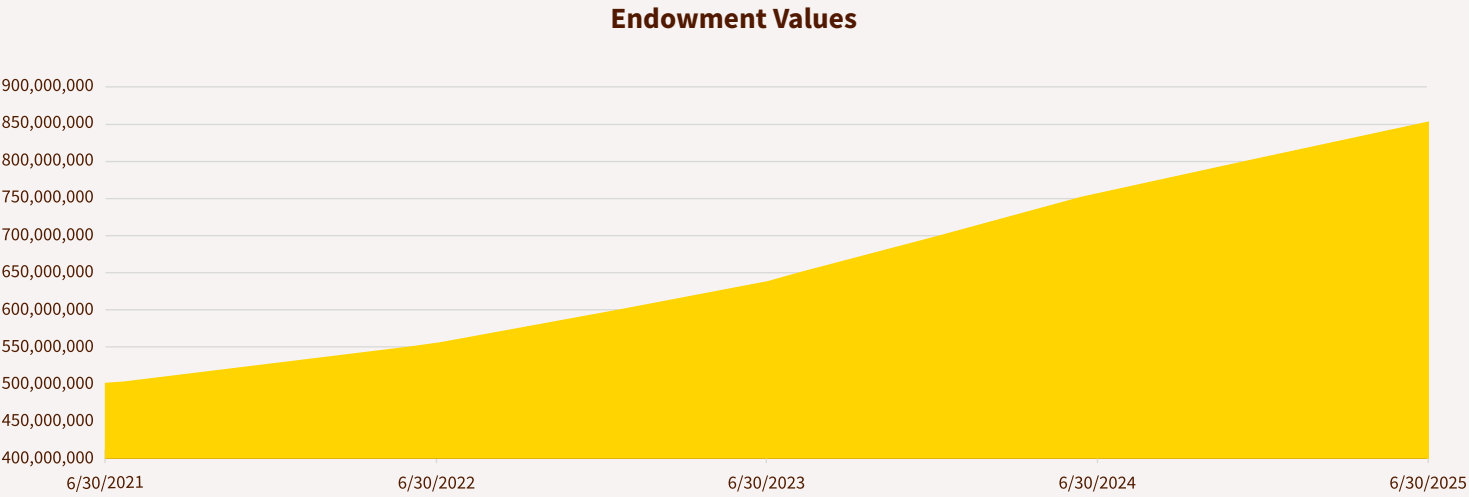
\$5,030,096
Raised in **ONE DAY!**

3,602
Total donors in **ONE DAY!**

More than 14,000 supporters of Western raised **\$54M**—including a record-breaking \$5,030,096 on WMU Giving Day this past April—to help ensure that Broncos thrive and graduate ready to create positive change in the world.

About the Endowment

Thanks to donor generosity, the WMU Foundation’s endowment fund has grown steadily over the past five years, reflecting deep trust in Western and in WMed. This growth helps meet urgent needs and fuels future progress. To keep the momentum going, continued philanthropic support is essential. Together, we’re building a stronger, more vibrant tomorrow for our students and our community.



Kismet and Kindness: Carol Warner’s Bronco Legacy

In a remarkable act of kindness, **Carol Susan Warner (1951-2025)** designated her entire estate, including her home in Fort Collins, Colorado, to Western. Her gift will grow the Alice Carpenter Warner Endowed Scholarship, originally established by Carol’s late father, and will continue to transform the lives of Broncos for generations to come.

This past year, the scholarship made a critical difference for recipient Jade King, a psychology and biomedical sciences student aspiring to become a neurologist.

Jade’s story is one of many that reflect the impact of the Warner family’s commitment to higher education, a legacy that began decades ago when Carol’s parents, Jim and Alice, met at WMU after WWII. Jim, a newly enrolled GI, watched Alice with admiration as she worked in the cafeteria. Three trips through the food line and he finally spoke to her. Whatever he said worked—they were happily married for over 60 years!

“By leaving her estate to WMU, Carol is continuing the legacy my aunt and uncle began. By focusing on students with financial need, her gift will help them complete their education and give back to their communities in the future,” said Sean Carpenter, Carol’s cousin and estate trustee.



Carol Warner

Carol was known for her wit, her thoughtful spirit and her love of animals, especially Kismet, her golden retriever. She and Kismet volunteered through Human Animal Bond in Colorado, bringing comfort and joy to others. In Carol’s final days, Kismet sat faithfully by her side.

Though she gave quietly, **Carol Warner’s** generosity speaks volumes. To Carol, and to all who give so selflessly, thank you. Your support is powerful and enduring.



Avery Knoll

Donor Support Feeds Bronco’s Purpose and Future

Choosing Western felt like fate for Avery Knoll. “Coincidentally, the first campus recruiter I met on my tour was a food marketing major,” she said.

Now a junior expected to graduate in 2026, Avery serves as president of the Food Marketing Association and is an active member of Delta Sigma Pi, Women’s Business Network and Alpha Lambda Delta. Donor support has made nurturing her passion for food possible.

“**Scholarships have opened doors for me to study abroad, experience new cultures and learn firsthand how diverse backgrounds and lifestyles shape the way people shop, eat and live,**” she said.

Striving for a career in a consumer packaged goods (CPG) company or retailer, Avery hopes to make her mark by helping feed people while enhancing the quality, accessibility and ingredients of food products. “I feel incredibly fortunate to benefit from the support of donors who care so deeply about students like me,” she shared. “The generosity has given me opportunities and experiences that I wouldn’t have been able to access otherwise.”



Rooted in Western: Honoring Floyd “Bud” Parks

Western Michigan University is home to some truly special Broncos who continue to dedicate their time and talents well beyond their days in the classroom. It’s a felt experience we strive to cultivate: Western nurtures Broncos, and Broncos nurture Western. Floyd L. “Bud” Parks’ nearly 30 years of service to the WMU Foundation exemplify this enduring bond.

At its annual meeting this past September, the Foundation Board recognized Bud with a special proclamation celebrating his service. Since joining the board in 1996, he’s served with distinction, including as vice president and chair of the investment committee.

A proud Bronco through and through, Bud earned his bachelor’s degree (B.B.A.’55) and master’s degree (MBA’64) from Haworth College of Business. A tireless advocate for the University, he’s served as a lifetime member of the WMU Alumni Association, a President’s Circle Keystone Society member and an advisor to WMU Haworth. His professional career included notable roles as president of the Irving S. Gilmore Foundation and director of the Harold and Grace Upjohn Foundation, where he made a lasting mark on the Kalamazoo community.

Together with his wife, Phyllis, Bud has generously supported Western and WMU Homer Stryker M.D. School of Medicine (WMed). Most notably, the couple established the Floyd and Phyllis Parks Endowment Fund for the University Archives and History Collection, reflecting their steadfast belief in historical preservation, higher education and legacy.

As a tribute to Bud’s enduring impact and transition to Director Emeritus, the Foundation will dedicate a tree and commemorative plaque in his honor at Heritage Hall. With deep gratitude, we thank Bud Parks for his unwavering dedication to WMU, our students and Bronco Nation.

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