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WSU Foundation raises record $66.6 million for Wichita State

Supporters of Wichita State University made $66.6 million in gift commitments in the fiscal year that ended June 30, marking the most successful fundraising year in the history of the WSU Foundation, which raises private funds to advance the university.

The fiscal 2018 total is $26.2 million more than the amount raised in the previous fiscal year and $10 million more than the Foundation’s previous record of $56 million, pledged in fiscal 2016. It includes gifts of cash, gifts-in-kind, pledges and new planned gifts from donors age 64 and older.

“This extraordinary generosity from alumni, businesses and other supporters demonstrates their commitment to Wichita State’s mission and their excitement about our future,” said Elizabeth King, WSU Foundation president and CEO. “Because of them, WSU is able to deliver the kind of education students need to be tomorrow’s innovative leaders and career-ready workforce.”

Fiscal 2018 was the fifth year of the seven-year Shock the World Campaign, which ends in June 2020. To date, the campaign has raised $xxx million of its $250 million goal, or xx percent.

The year was highlighted by several exceptionally large donations, including a $12 million gift from Wayne and Kay Woolsey. The Wichita couple designated that $10 million be used to help Wichita State build a new home for the W. Frank Barton School of Business. In recognition of this lead gift, the facility will be named Wayne and Kay Woolsey Hall.

Dorothy and Bill Cohen, two long-time supporters of Wichita State, gave $2.5 million to the Dorothy and Bill Cohen Honors College, which bears their name in recognition of their initial investment of $5 million, made in 2015.

Other substantial contributions include $3.6 million from the Charles Koch Foundation to fund the Institute for the Study of Economic Growth at WSU; $1 million from the Give Something Back Foundation to provide full-ride scholarships for students with financial need; and $1 million from members of the Bastian family and their family-owned Fidelity Bank to support the new business school facility.
Planned gifts, which donors make through their estates, also are important to Wichita State and the Shock the World Campaign. In fiscal 2018, $4.1 million was received through planned gifts and $8.8 million was pledged by donors who will be 70 or older by the time the campaign ends in 2020.

“Wichita State is fortunate to have alumni and friends who are committed to this university’s future,” said WSU President John Bardo. “Their unprecedented level of support represents a trust and confidence we value deeply.”

The total market value of the WSU Foundation's endowment is nearly $xxx million, which xxxxxxxxxxx

The WSU Foundation’s investment return for fiscal year 2018 was xxx percent, which increases its five-year return to xxx percent.