



2023-2024  
UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING FOUNDATION

# ANNUAL REPORT STATE MATCHING PROGRAM





# STATE MATCHING PROGRAMS

UNIVERSITY ENDOWMENT CHALLENGE  
W.S. 21-16-903

ATHLETICS CHALLENGE MATCHING PROGRAM  
W.S. 21-16-1003

ACADEMIC FACILITIES CHALLENGE MATCHING PROGRAM  
W.S. 21-16-1403



# A SOUND INVESTMENT IN WYOMING'S FUTURE

**T**he Wyoming Legislature's state matching program is an invaluable investment in the future of the state. The program encourages private support of Wyoming's university by doubling donors' gifts. However, the impact of the program is beyond measure and ripples through generations. Thanks to your investment, the University of Wyoming endowment is approaching a billion dollars—far surpassing our sister schools in the Mountain West and approaching that of much larger institutions.

The state matching program was established in 2001 by the state legislature, and UW has received more than \$227 million in state match funds supporting faculty, students, and academic and athletic facilities across campus. It was designed to leverage the generosity of donors and to encourage a new level of giving by creating incentives to invest in UW and its academic, athletic, and facility priorities. Through this program, endowment gifts of \$50,000 or more and facility gifts of \$25,000 or more are doubled by the State of Wyoming. This past year, \$10 million in matching funds was made available for the endowment challenges program, which specifically encourages the creation of endowments that support UW in perpetuity.

The impact of the Wyoming Legislature's state matching program cannot be overstated. Thank you on behalf of the university, the citizens of our state, and most of all our students, past, present, and future!



# DAVID LE NORMAN

## FACULTY EXCELLENCE FOR WYOMING'S FUTURE

**I**n Wyoming, we are hardworking, and we put in our best effort. That's why faculty excellence is a University of Wyoming fundraising priority—they are giving forth their best effort. By supporting our faculty and holding them to a high standard, Wyoming's students receive the best education they can—which puts them on the road to success and ensures Wyoming's economic future.

The Wyoming Legislature's state matching program prompted a \$2.5 million gift—doubled to \$5 million—from alum David D. Le Norman, who is an energy and investment entrepreneur. This gift and its matching funds created the Le Norman Endowed Leadership Chair in Petroleum Engineering, which supports the head of the UW Department of Petroleum Engineering. The chair is held by Dr. Vamegh Rasouli, an expert in petroleum engineering and a successful researcher. It also created the Le Norman Family Excellence Fund in Petroleum Engineering, providing financial support to the department and giving the chair the resources to further institutional goals.

Le Norman graduated from UW in 1986 with a degree in petroleum engineering. He also studied chemical engineering at Oklahoma State University and earned an MBA from Oklahoma City University. He has more than 30 years of experience in the oil and gas industry in engineering and business development roles with Texaco and in creating and carrying out successful build and monetization strategies across multiple companies, including Le Norman Energy. He is founder and managing partner at Reign Capital Holdings, an investment company based in Oklahoma City that invests early and late-stage capital primarily in upstream and midstream oil and gas.

This gift advances the goals of the UW Tier-1 Engineering Initiative, which works to transform the College of Engineering and Physical Sciences into a nationally recognized institution of academic excellence and world-class research. It advances the goals of the Department of Petroleum Engineering, which has a widespread impact throughout the state. Oil and gas research is being done in labs across campus—the Drilling and Completions Simulator Lab, the Subsurface Energy and Digital Innovation Center, and the High Bay Research Facility. In these labs, students master important hands-on techniques that are used in the field.

“Wyoming is a state with a lot of opportunity,” says Dr. Rasouli. “It is a place that has huge potential for development of science, technology, and innovation. I see lots of exciting things that can be done here.”











# ROY CLINE

## REMARKABLE SUCCESS FROM A REMARKABLE ALUM

Since 1886, the University of Wyoming has been setting its students up for success. Those students go on to accomplished careers, and many stay connected to their alma mater. And some are able to give back to UW and the state in remarkable ways. These donors and the Legislature share the same vision—creating the best Wyoming for today and for the future.

Roy Cline is one of those students. A native of Greybull, he earned a bachelor's in civil engineering from UW in 1960 and then a master's at Stanford. He worked for the California State Highway Department before serving in the U.S. Air Force, for which he was awarded the Bronze Star. He joined Morrison Knudsen, ultimately serving as president of the MK Construction Group. He then served as president of the Kiewit Industrial Company and on the Board of Directors of the parent corporation, Peter Kiewit Sons' Inc.

Cline is a UW Distinguished Alumni and was inducted into the UW College of Engineering and Physical Sciences Hall of Fame. He has been a member of the UW Foundation Board and served as its president. He served on the Engineering Advisory Board and was a board member of the Institute of Environment and Natural Resources, now the Haub School of Environment and Natural Resources. Roy and his wife Caryl are both recipients of the UW Cornerstone Award.

In 2002, the Clines established the Roy L. and Caryl L. Cline Distinguished Chair and Professor(s) in Engineering, which was boosted by the state matching program. The fund attracts nationally recognized scholars as distinguished chairs and professors. These faculty members provide intellectual leadership to address current issues while promoting a long-term vision for a positive future. The Clines also established the Roy and Caryl Cline Engineering Dean's Excellence Fund, which fosters excellence and provides financial support for the college, particularly for technology upgrades for the student innovation center, the Innovation Wyrkshop.

The chair is held by Dr. Haibo Zhai, a professor in the Department of Civil and Architectural Engineering and Construction Management as well as an adjunct professor in the School of Energy Resources and the School of Computing. His research involves a combination of computational modeling and analysis for energy and environmental systems with engineering economics, risk analysis, and policy analysis in support of both technological and policy developments. His Laboratory for Low-Carbon Energy and Environmental Sustainability addresses complex energy, environmental, and natural resource challenges, and it developed the Integrated Environmental Control Model, a publicly available computer tool used worldwide for power plant modeling and techno-economic assessment.

The professorship is held by Dr. Francois Jacobs, an associate professor in the Department of Civil and Architectural Engineering and Construction Management, who leads the Construction Management program. He teaches and performs research in areas important to Wyoming—construction workforce development, business dynamics in family-owned corporations, assessment and integrated teaching platforms in construction education.



# THE WATT FOUNDATION

## SAVING WYOMING WILDLANDS

**T**he Wyoming Legislature is entrusted with the care of Wyoming's wild and wonderful landscapes that support so much of what we do. It's the use of those resources that go on to support Wyoming's university.

Some of those resources are rangelands and agricultural fields. However, these are threatened by invasive grasses—cheatgrass, ventenata, and medusahead, for example—which have major impacts on the landscapes they dominate. In Wyoming, it is estimated that there are well over a million acres of rangeland impacted by invasive grasses. These grasses create poor grazing resources and diminish wildlife habitat. Invasive species also have drastically changed wildfire cycles, and fire frequency has increased from every 25–100 years to every five years or less. Aside from the incredible harm fire causes to ecosystems in the Wyoming area, increased fire frequency causes major disruptions in human lives. Each year, taxpayer money is spent to address the harmful effects of wildfires.

A \$500,000 gift from the Joe and Arlene Watt Foundation, which was doubled by state matching, supports a UW program that combats invasive grass species and restores healthy Wyoming landscapes. The Institute for Managing Annual Grasses Invading Natural Ecosystems (IMAGINE) is an initiative of the UW College of Agriculture, Life Sciences, and Natural Resources Sheridan Research and Extension Center, as well as other partners who may not normally sit at the table.

IMAGINE builds upon the existing foundation of world-class partnerships and remarkable teaching, research, and outreach. It also offers a new model of engaged research and outreach that makes a lasting difference in fighting expanding infestations of annual grasses in Wyoming while integrating the socioeconomic drivers necessary for success. For example, the program is providing hands-on educational opportunities, performing fundamental research on the control and prevention of invasive species, prioritizing landscapes, partnering with landowners and land managers, working with industry, and deploying networks of experts. IMAGINE is partnering with units across the UW campus, community colleges, the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, and Wyoming weed and pest control districts, and its outreach is growing every day.

“Wyoming's grasslands and wildlife are some of our most important resources,” says Richard Hammer of the Watt Foundation. “We're excited for this opportunity for the Watt Foundation to continue to invest in the future of our great state through maintaining our wildlands while offering hands-on education, research, and outreach. Our goal is to invest in the institutions that transform our communities and ensure our state's future.”

The Watt Foundation is helping the IMAGINE program realize its dream of “a Wyoming where iconic Western landscapes and diverse native rangelands bloom without the negative impacts and wildfire risk caused by invasive annual grasses.”











# JIM & JILL ANDERSON

## SUPPORTING SOME OF WYOMING'S MOST-DESERVING STUDENTS

Students are at the center of everything we do at the University of Wyoming. Whether it's a scholarship for first-year freshman Wyoming high school students or for working moms getting their education remotely or graduate students helping professors with world-changing research—student support is a cornerstone of student success. The Wyoming Legislature's state matching program has helped found countless of these funds.

Wyoming also honors its veterans. In recent years, there have been 42,237 veterans living within the state of Wyoming, 714 of which attend the University of Wyoming. And there are many more people in the military as well as their families in the state. The Wyoming Legislature supports Wyoming military personnel and veterans in many ways.

These two important values come together in the James E. Anderson and Jill S. Anderson Veteran Student Support Excellence Fund, the impact of which was doubled by state matching. It supports the veteran student programs of the UW Marna M. Kuehne Foundation Veterans Services Center—particularly the unique opportunities and needs of veteran students, especially wellbeing and quality of life.

The Marna M. Kuehne Foundation Veterans Services Center at the University of Wyoming serves those who have served—a resource and support center open to military and veterans of all services and their dependents. Their motto: “We believe that all military-connected students deserve our support in their pursuit of a high-quality education.”

This fund will support the hiring of a second guest instructor for the Veterans Academic Program, the development of classes for the Veterans Studies minor, and a veterans' speakers series. The fund will support development of a mentoring program for veteran students and increase support for the impactful Veterans Fly Fishing Program. Other things it may support include a food insecurity program, the Buddy Check Woobie Program, and the center's operating budget.

The donors are James E. and Jill S. Anderson. Jim is originally from Cheyenne and graduated from the University of Wyoming with a B.S. and M.S. in geology in 1965 and 1967, respectively. He worked as a professional geologist in the energy industry. Jill is originally from Newcastle and graduated from the University of Wyoming with a B.S. in elementary education in 1967. She worked as a teacher for 23 years. Jim and Jill are supporters of the University of Wyoming who have also established endowed scholarships that support students who are veterans, students who are interested in production agriculture, and students who are interested in professional geology and the energy industry. Jim and Jill also made an expendable gift to support the Veterans Services Center and position of the James E. Anderson and Jill S. Anderson Veterans Services Center Director.







# BY THE NUMBERS

23 YEARS OF IMPACT

# \$227M+

IN TOTAL MATCHING FUNDS

# 700+

MATCHED ENDOWMENT & FACILITIES FUNDS

## 401

STUDENT  
SUPPORT  
FUNDS



## 241

PROGRAM  
SUPPORT  
FUNDS



## 49

FACULTY  
SUPPORT  
FUNDS



## 25+

ACADEMIC &  
ATHLETICS  
FACILITIES



# BY THE NUMBERS

## PRIVATE SUPPORT TOTALS (in millions)



## NUMBER OF ENDOWMENTS



## ENDOWMENT (in millions)



## ENDOWMENT EXPENDITURE (in millions)



Note: The FY24 totals above are unaudited.



# BY THE NUMBERS

## STATUS OF \$49.0 MILLION ATHLETICS CHALLENGE

SEPTEMBER 13, 2003 - JUNE 30, 2024

FUNDS RECEIVED FROM DONORS	\$49,000,000
DONOR COMMITMENTS SECURING MATCHING FUNDS	\$49,000,000
TOTAL MATCHING POOL	<b>\$49,000,000</b>

## STATUS OF \$60.3 MILLION ACADEMIC FACILITIES CHALLENGE

OCTOBER 1, 2005 - JUNE 30, 2024

FUNDS RECEIVED FROM DONORS	\$60,329,880
DONOR COMMITMENTS SECURING MATCHING FUNDS	\$60,329,880
TOTAL MATCHING POOL	<b>\$60,329,880</b>

## STATUS OF \$117.9 MILLION UNIVERSITY ENDOWMENT CHALLENGE

MARCH 1, 2001 - JUNE 30, 2024

FUNDS RECEIVED FROM DONORS	\$116,069,376
DONOR COMMITMENTS SECURING MATCHING FUNDS	\$117,900,208
TOTAL MATCHING POOL	<b>\$117,900,208</b>



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