



## **MEMORANDUM**

To: University of Wyoming Board of Trustees

From: University of Wyoming Foundation

Re: Liaison Report for September 2024 meeting

Date: September 10, 2024

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Thank you for this opportunity to update you on the activities of the University of Wyoming Foundation through our liaison officers, Trustees Bonner and Fall. Please see below.

### ***YTD PHILANTHROPY***

As reflected in the monthly giving report through July 31, year-to-date private support to UW is \$7,409,764.

### ***ADVANCEMENT SERVICES***

The Advancement Services team is continuing its work on addressing the findings from the recent cybersecurity audit, ensuring all necessary measures are being implemented to strengthen security. In addition, the Donor Relations team is actively preparing the FY24 annual endowment report, which will be shared with donors to provide them with an update on the impact of their contributions.

### ***DEVELOPMENT***

Driven by the University of Wyoming's commitment to student success and faculty excellence, UW raised \$61.6 million during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024. This brings the university's five-year annual fundraising average to almost \$54 million thanks to gifts and commitments this year from 27,644 individuals, corporations, and foundations.

The University of Wyoming and the UW Foundation celebrated several significant milestones this year. For the first time, donors contributed more than \$60 million in back-to-back years, marking only the third time in UW's history that donations have surpassed this amount. Additionally, this fiscal year saw an increase of nearly 4,000 donors compared to the previous year, challenging the national trend of declining donor numbers at public institutions.

Development staff and academic partners have been actively engaging with donors to discuss state matching program funds appropriated during the 2024 legislative session. The UW Foundation has received approximately \$6 million in gifts and pledges associated with and leveraging the matching funds.



Moreover, the UW Foundation recently received a generous and significant estate gift from the late Dr. Thomas E. Spicer, a former UW Board of Trustee and a UW Foundation Board Member, that will support specific funds within the Haub School and Global Engagement Office.

### **FINANCIAL SERVICES**

The Financial Services team is currently collaborating with external auditors on a comprehensive full-scope audit, ensuring that all financial activities are thoroughly examined. Simultaneously, the team is coordinating efforts with the UW team to reconcile year-end numbers, crucial for the audits and the preparation of financial statements. In parallel, the department is finalizing the August 2X4X report and reinvestments, while also preparing to report the Marian H. Rochelle Gateway Center reserves activity and balance. Additionally, there is an ongoing review of certain foundation positions that may require adjustments to their FLSA status, in consultation with UW HR. Alongside these efforts, the team is also focused on onboarding several new employees within the foundation.

### **CAMPAIGN READINESS**

Campaign planning is a key part of UW's Strategic Plan, particularly supporting Goal 5: financial stability and diversification. Over the past year, the UW Foundation has conducted due diligence by meeting with universities currently in campaigns, attending training sessions, and collaborating with academic partners and alumni groups. The last comprehensive campaign for UW, completed in 2005, raised \$204 million.

As a next step, the UW Foundation is moving forward with a plan to hire a consultant to conduct an internal assessment, identify philanthropic priorities, and evaluate external readiness. This will guide a potential campaign's strategic direction, goals, and messaging, with follow-up discussions on the formal campaign plan.

### **GIVING DAY**

University of Wyoming Giving Day is set for noon to noon, October 23-24, 2024—the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The UW Foundation Board is supporting Giving Day this year with \$360,000 in matching and challenge funds to encourage donor support for colleges, units, and programs across campus. Additionally, the UW Board of Trustees are supporting Giving Day with \$250,000 of matching funds for student success.