



2024-2025
UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING FOUNDATION
ANNUAL REPORT
STATE MATCHING PROGRAM





STATE MATCHING PROGRAMS

UNIVERSITY ENDOWMENT CHALLENGE ACCOUNT
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 NATIONAL MODEL FOR IMPACT

Wyoming's Matching Program Transforms UW

Since its creation in 2001, the Wyoming Legislature's state matching program has stood as a model of strategic investment in higher education. By doubling qualifying private gifts, the program has leveraged donor generosity to elevate the University of Wyoming's academic, research, and athletic priorities. To date, more than \$237 million in state matching funds have been directed toward faculty, students, and facilities across campus. This sustained partnership has contributed to a rapidly growing UW endowment now surpassing \$900 million—outpacing peer institutions in the Mountain West and rivaling those of much larger universities.

Since 2022, this momentum has accelerated. Using the original state matching program as a model, the UW Foundation Board of Directors launched its own matching initiative centered on the institution's two primary fundraising pillars of student success and faculty excellence, which are core to the success of Wyoming's university. Concurrently, the UW Board of Trustees deepened its investments in students, faculty, and research. The Wyoming Legislature then invested an additional \$10 million into the Endowment Challenge Program in 2024, which significantly amplified these priorities.

This public-private collaboration strengthens UW's ability to fulfill its land-grant mission of serving Wyoming's students and meeting the state's evolving needs. Increased endowment funding enhances academic programs, expands research opportunities, improves facilities, and provides critical support for faculty—the key drivers of student success and achievement. By doubling endowment gifts of \$50,000 or more and facility gifts of \$25,000 or more, the state continues to incentivize transformational philanthropy and to secure the long-term financial sustainability of these efforts.

The Wyoming state matching program is unique in the nation and functions as a catalyst for excellence across the university. It directly contributes to first-rate academic and athletic facilities, strengthens core programs, and creates endowments that will support UW in perpetuity. This investment exemplifies a shared commitment to educational quality, research innovation, and statewide impact.

On behalf of the university, its students, faculty, and the citizens of Wyoming, we extend our sincere appreciation for this ongoing partnership, which enables UW to prepare future leaders, attract and retain outstanding faculty, and maintain its standing as the state's flagship land-grant institution. This translates to a prosperous future for our great state.



STATE MATCH

By the Numbers

TOTAL STATE MATCH SINCE 2001
24 YEARS OF IMPACT



\$237M+ *for* STUDENTS, FACULTY,
PROGRAMS, AND FACILITIES

2024 ENDOWMENT CHALLENGE MATCH

In 2024, the Wyoming Legislature allocated \$10 million to support the University Endowment Challenge Account (W.S. 21-16-903) through matching funds. The UW Board of Trustees designated the funding equally—\$5 million for student success initiatives and \$5 million for faculty excellence. Through this program, endowment gifts of \$50,000 or more were eligible for matching, strengthening the impact of private support.

\$10M *for* STUDENT SUCCESS AND
FACULTY EXCELLENCE

MATCHED TO

\$20M *by* DONOR
GIFTS

42

*new***STUDENT SUCCESS ENDOWMENTS**

AREAS INCLUDE:

- » Biodiversity
- » Business ethics
- » Civil and architectural engineering
- » Construction management
- » Ecology and water conservation and management
- » Energy and petroleum engineering
- » First-generation students
- » Honors
- » Native American students
- » Nursing
- » Pre-med
- » STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math)
- » Veterans
- » Visual arts
- » Wildlife research
- » Tourism and recreation

13

*new***FACULTY EXCELLENCE FUNDS**

- » Jay Kemmerer WORTH (Wyoming Outdoor Recreation Tourism and Hospitality) Faculty Excellence Fund
- » Clyde E. and Jerrine N. Stewart Family Professorship
- » E.G. Meyer Family Chemical and Biomedical Engineering Department Head
- » Phil Roberts Fellowship in Wyoming History and the West
- » Strickland Family Fish and Wildlife Biometrics Professorship
- » David and Christel Walrath Professorship in Mechanical Engineering
- » Smyrnios Family Sales Professorship
- » Gregory C. Dyekman Debate Coaching Fund in Honor of B. Wayne Callaway
- » Patrick Heasler Professorship in Mathematics and Statistics
- » Paul and Karleen Turner Faculty Fund in Economics
- » Roy J. Shlemon Professorship in Applied Engineering and Environmental Geology
- » Harry C. Vaughan Faculty Fund in Physics and Astronomy
- » Farm Credit Services of America College of Agriculture, Life Sciences, and Natural Resources Deanship

STATE MATCH

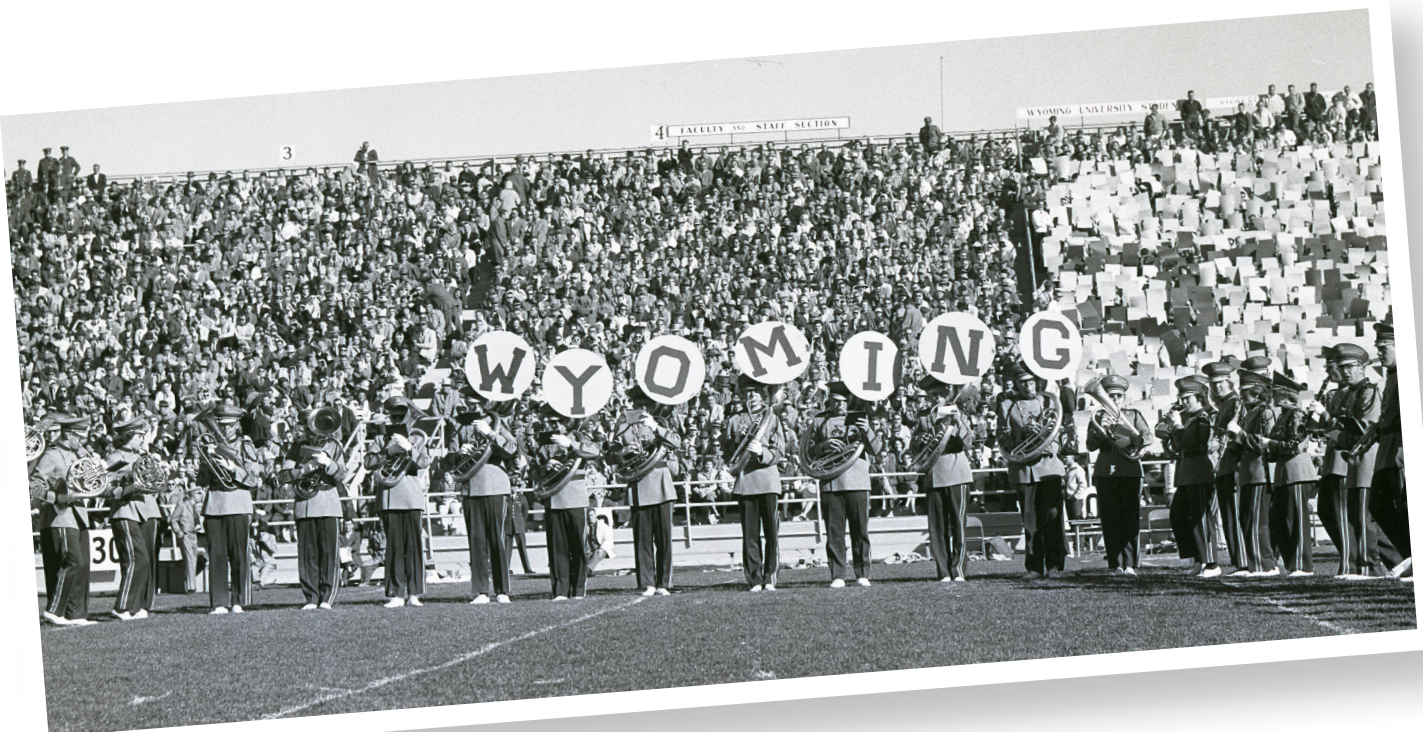
By the Numbers

**STATUS OF \$49.0 MILLION
ATHLETICS CHALLENGE
SEPTEMBER 13, 2003 - JUNE 30, 2025**

\$49,000,000 FUNDS RECEIVED FROM DONORS

\$49,000,000 DONOR COMMITMENTS SECURING MATCHING FUNDS

\$49,000,000 TOTAL MATCHING POOL



**STATUS OF \$60.3 MILLION
ACADEMIC FACILITIES CHALLENGE
OCTOBER 1, 2005 - JUNE 30, 2025**

\$60,329,880 FUNDS RECEIVED FROM DONORS

\$60,329,880 DONOR COMMITMENTS SECURING MATCHING FUNDS

\$60,329,880 TOTAL MATCHING POOL

**STATUS OF \$128.5 MILLION
UNIVERSITY ENDOWMENT CHALLENGE
MARCH 1, 2001 - JUNE 30, 2025**

\$122,394,449 FUNDS RECEIVED FROM DONORS

\$128,529,208 DONOR COMMITMENTS SECURING MATCHING FUNDS

\$128,529,208 TOTAL MATCHING POOL

UW AND FCSAMERICA PARTNER TO ADVANCE *Agriculture, Research, and Community Impact*

Farm Credit Services of America (FCSAmerica) has made a transformational investment in the University of Wyoming by establishing the Farm Credit Services of America College of Agriculture, Life Sciences, and Natural Resources Deanship. This marks only the fourth named deanship in UW history, underscoring the university's commitment to academic excellence, industry partnerships, and regional impact. Endowed deanships—among the most prestigious gifts a university can receive—attract visionary leaders, drive innovation, and extend UW's reach far beyond campus.

This new endowment, matched by state matching funds, empowers the college's leadership to invest in high-impact teaching, research, and outreach that elevate agriculture as a driver of innovation in Wyoming and the Mountain West. It also fosters interdisciplinary work in critical areas for the future of the region's economy and communities. FCSAmerica's commitment reflects its long-standing dedication to strengthening rural economies and preparing the next generation of agricultural leaders.

The deanship continues UW's larger effort to secure strategic investments that enhance student success, to attract top faculty, and to reinforce its role as a national leader among land-grant institutions. By investing in enduring leadership, UW and FCSAmerica are setting a bold course for agriculture, natural resources, and rural innovation in the West and beyond.



"Endowed deanships are game changers. They allow us to lead boldly, attract exceptional talent, and respond to the complex challenges facing Wyoming communities and the industries that support them."

– KELLY CRANE, FARM CREDIT SERVICES OF AMERICA
DEAN OF THE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE,
LIFE SCIENCES, AND NATURAL RESOURCES

NEW UW FELLOWSHIP SECURES THE *Future of Wyoming History*

A major gift from an anonymous donor, doubled by the State of Wyoming, has established the Phil Roberts Faculty Fellowship in Wyoming History and the West at the University of Wyoming. This endowed fellowship honors the life and work of Phil Roberts, a beloved professor emeritus and leading authority on the state's past, and will recruit and support a faculty member dedicated to teaching and researching Wyoming and Western history.

Roberts's decades of scholarship, teaching, and public outreach have benefited generations of students and citizens by providing a better understanding of Wyoming's heritage. From authoring the Wyoming Almanac to presenting hundreds of lectures statewide, he has amplified the stories of the people and places that define the state. This fellowship ensures that his legacy and the study of Wyoming history will endure, inspiring students and advancing scholarship for years to come.

Endowed fellowships like this strengthen UW's ability to attract outstanding faculty, to expand research, and to elevate the humanities as a cornerstone of the university's mission. By preserving and promoting Wyoming's unique history, the Phil Roberts Faculty Fellowship represents an investment in the cultural and intellectual fabric of the state, ensuring its stories continue to inform and inspire future generations.



"Wyoming history is a critical area for the UW History department—not only for university students but for connecting the entire state through talks, projects, and student internships. The endowment for the History department not only will continue to educate our students about the interesting history of our state, but it also will inspire them and others to explore the resources and write articles and books about our history."

- PHIL ROBERTS, PROFESSOR EMERITUS,
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY,
UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING

UW ALUMNI INVEST IN STUDENT SUCCESS *with Transformational Gift to Petroleum Engineering*



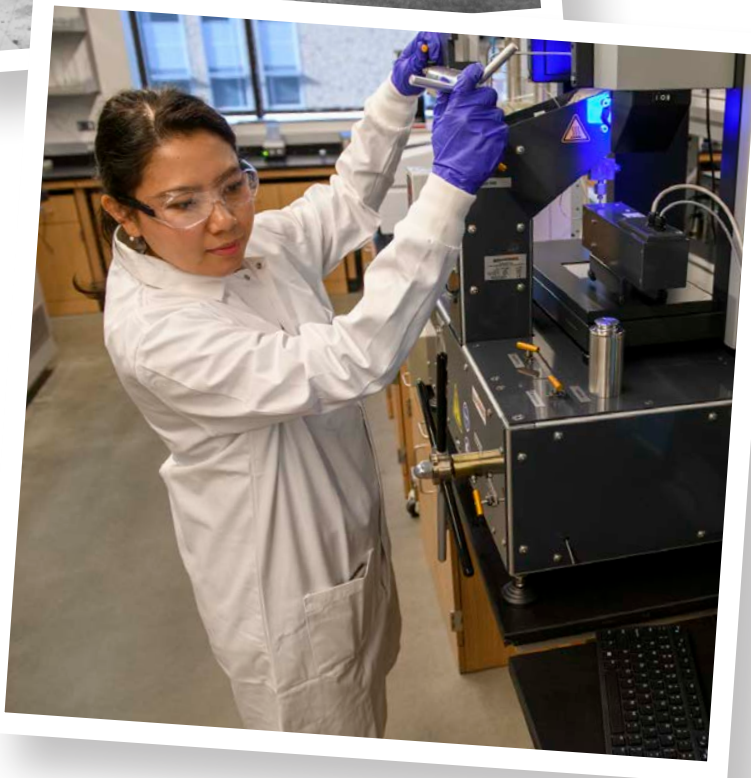
Joseph and Stephanie Leimkuhler have pledged \$500,000 to support petroleum engineering students at the University of Wyoming, a gift doubled to \$1 million through the State of Wyoming's matching program. This landmark investment establishes the Joseph and Stephanie Leimkuhler Fund for Student Success in Petroleum Engineering, which advances UW's mission to develop the next generation of energy leaders.

The endowed fund will empower graduate students in petroleum engineering with scholarships, assistantships, research opportunities, and professional development support—particularly for those specializing in drilling engineering. The goal of UW's Top 5 in 5 initiative is for the Department of Energy and Petroleum Engineering to reach a top five ranking in the next five years. Although rankings can be subjective, this tangible target has real impact because it attracts top students and the best faculty who perform world-changing research in a superior environment.

For the Leimkuhlers, this is both a personal and forward-looking commitment. As UW alumni who benefited from state support during their studies, they are now ensuring others can access the same transformative opportunities. Their generosity reflects a shared vision of education as a catalyst for innovation, professional excellence, and service to Wyoming's energy industry.

"UW and the state of Wyoming were there for us when we needed help, and this gift along with the state match will ensure the same opportunity is there for future students as well."

- JOSEPH LEIMKUHLER



ALUM'S GIFT SUPPORTS THE *Mental Health of Veteran Students*

UW alum Betsy Casselman-Porter has always been committed to supporting those who served. As a psychology student at the University of Wyoming, she witnessed classmates returning from Vietnam facing unseen battles. Later, during her graduate internship at the VA, she saw firsthand the toll of PTSD and mental health challenges on veterans. Those experiences inspired a lifelong dedication to supporting veterans.

That dedication became the Casselman Veteran Student Support Excellence Fund, which strengthens the University of Wyoming Veterans Services Center through support of operations and the UW Buddy Check Woobie Program. Thanks to state matching, the fund's impact is doubled. This initiative fosters self-care, empathy, and connection and reminds student veterans that they are never alone.

Through the Woobie Program, every student veteran receives a comforting symbol of support based on the iconic military poncho liner. Each "woobie" encourages veterans to check in with one another, creating a powerful peer network and, in some cases, a lifeline during dark times.

*"It is so nice to know we
have not been forgotten."*

- UW STUDENT VETERAN



UW FOUNDATION

By the Numbers

ENDOWMENT EXPENDITURES

\$20,657,805 FY21

\$27,640,111 FY24

\$22,917,965 FY22

\$30,041,123 FY25

\$21,607,576 FY23

DISTRIBUTIONS TO UW

\$31,132,107 FY21

\$41,102,514 FY24

\$30,240,004 FY22

\$46,583,944 FY25

\$37,136,035 FY23

POOLED INVESTMENT TOTAL

\$794,697,513 FY21**\$831,447,542** FY24**\$751,279,543** FY22**\$907,984,599** FY25**\$789,881,261** FY23

NUMBER OF ENDOWMENTS

1,646 FY21**1,823** FY24**1,690** FY22**1,916** FY25**1,774** FY23*Note: The FY25 totals on both pages are unaudited.*

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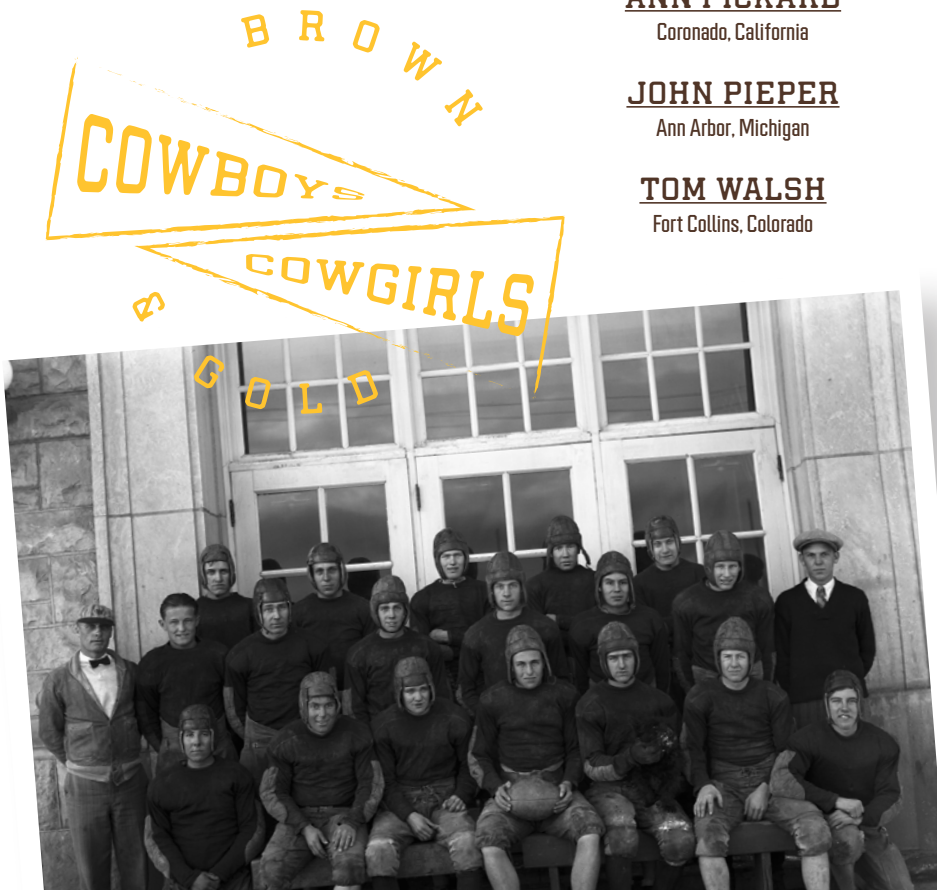
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STATE *matching* PROGRAM



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