



# 2024 FOUNDATION ANNUAL REPORT



**KENNESAW STATE  
UNIVERSITY**  
DIVISION OF UNIVERSITY ADVANCEMENT  
*Kennesaw State Foundation*



# < > TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 3 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
- 4 IMPACT AT A GLANCE
- 6 TRANSFORMATIVE GIFTS
- 23 CHAIR'S LETTER
- 24 CEO'S LETTER
- 25 KSU FOUNDATION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES
- 26 PRESIDENT'S CABINET
- 27 PRESIDENT'S PARLIAMENT
- 28 FINANCIAL REPORTS
- 34 THE CAMPAIGN FOR KSU



# < > PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Kennesaw State University has entered an exciting new era, proudly serving and graduating more students, conducting more innovative research, and creating more value than ever before. This is a pivotal time in our history as we set our sights even higher.

The world is taking notice of Owl Nation, and we know that bold ambitions require bold actions. The energy is undeniable on our campuses, in the surrounding community, and among alumni and partners. In the past year alone, we welcomed our largest-ever freshman class, debuted in Conference USA, launched Taking Flight — our

new strategic plan — and saw The Campaign for KSU build critical momentum.

With tremendous support in FY24, we grew our endowment by \$12.8 million; created over 100 new funds for scholarships, student programs, research, and athletics; and saw a 33% increase in faculty and staff support. These milestones and achievements are a testament to our impact and are crucial investments that will propel Kennesaw State to greater heights.

Our new strategic plan will guide our path. The plan envisions Kennesaw State achieving national prominence as a public university known for education, research, and community programs that foster inquiry and advance society. We aim to make KSU a benchmark for academic, research, and operational excellence, ensuring that a Kennesaw State degree has more value each and every year. This is our commitment to every graduate, every donor, and the communities and state we proudly serve.

On behalf of Owl Nation and together with the KSU Foundation, I am grateful for the support of our mission. I look forward to the year ahead and to working together to achieve the most ambitious campaign in our history.

**Kathy S. Schwaig**  
*President*

# IMPACT AT A GLANCE

Our philanthropic success in FY24 is a testament to the unwavering dedication of our community — students, faculty, staff, alumni, and supporters like you. Together, we have surpassed our fundraising goals, fueling transformative initiatives that elevate our institution and empower future generations.

This remarkable achievement is not merely a reflection of financial generosity but a celebration of the collective spirit that drives our mission forward. We thank you for standing with us as we build a brighter future for KSU.

**\$24 MILLION+** TOTAL DOLLARS RAISED

**11,964**  
TOTAL GIFTS SUPPORTING STUDENT SUCCESS

**131**  
NEW FUNDS SUPPORTING SCHOLARSHIPS, RESEARCH, KSU ATHLETICS, AND STUDENT PROGRAMS



**\$12.8 MILLION**  
GROWTH IN ENDOWMENT

**33% INCREASE**  
IN FACULTY AND STAFF SUPPORT

**\$142,838 RAISED**  
ON THE INAUGURAL KSU GIVING DAY BY 1,000+ DONORS

**251% INCREASE**  
IN DOLLARS RAISED FOR CROWDFUNDING INITIATIVES

# SPOTLIGHT ON GENEROSITY



## BEN AND BRANDY LOOPER

Ben Looper's journey with Kennesaw State University began in the 1990s when he and his wife, Brandy '98, formed a lifelong bond with their alma mater. Today, as CEO of Southeast Restoration Group, Looper remains dedicated to giving back.

With their recent \$100,000 gift, the Loopers have set the stage for a brighter future at KSU. The Looper Family Construction Management Scholarship and Southeast Restoration Construction Management Scholarship are not just financial aid but beacons of hope for students within the College of Architecture and Construction Management.

Beyond academics, Looper's passion for athletics is evident in his support for KSU football and the men's and women's golf teams. As a former student-athlete, Looper understands the value of sports in developing leadership and resilience.

"Both football and golf have been longtime passions for myself and my family," he said. "Since the inception of football, we have supported the staff, specifically the equipment team and coaching staff. We also formed a

group to help the KSU golf team buy their first sprinter van to help them travel to tournaments in comfort."

Looper's message to all alumni and community members is clear: KSU's continued success relies on the support of its community.

"The reality is the university and the students need us more today than ever with the rising costs, the opportunity for KSU Athletics to compete as a member of Conference USA, and the push to increase our focus on research and innovation," Looper said.

## BETSY CAMP

Betsy Camp's unwavering dedication to Kennesaw State University reached new heights with her recent gift of \$200,000 to the Athletics Capital Campaign. As a member of the KSU Foundation Board of Trustees, Camp's generosity is rooted in her belief in the power of athletics to build and shape a community at KSU while increasing visibility for the university.

"I am deeply committed to supporting Kennesaw State University because I believe in the profound impact that athletics can have on building a vibrant and engaged community," said Camp. "With the development of the new Sports Performance Complex, we are not only enhancing our facilities but also paving the way for greater visibility and success in Conference USA. I am thrilled to be part of this transformative journey and eager to see how it will elevate our university and its athletic programs to new heights."



This significant contribution will support the development of the university's new Sports Performance Complex near Fifth Third Stadium.\* The complex is poised to become a cornerstone for KSU Athletics, providing student-athletes and coaches with the resources needed to excel in Conference USA.

## BORJA AND ROSEMARY DE OLANO

Borja de Olano, a retired executive from The Coca-Cola Company, and wife Rosemary recently made a \$100,000 gift to the university to support the Bagwell College of Education and KSU Athletics.

Introduced to Kennesaw State University by fellow trustee Judith Moen Stanley, de Olano joined the KSU Foundation Board of Trustees. Drawn to KSU's status as a relatively new institution with one of the largest and most diverse student bodies in Georgia, de Olano was impressed by its affordability and mission to support first-generation college students.

His commitment to KSU extends beyond de Olano's role on the Board of Trustees. He established the de Olano Family Education Scholarship, aimed at supporting future educators, emphasizing the importance of quality teachers.

De Olano acknowledges the significant challenge facing students pursuing degrees in education today, highlighting the issue of underpaid teachers and the heavy burden of education loans.

In addition to his support for education, de Olano has made a substantial gift to the Athletics Capital Campaign. He recognizes the pivotal role athletics play in the university community and raising KSU's profile.

"Athletics is a key element in any successful school," he said. "It helps create an environment of unity among students, faculty, staff, alumni, and supporters."

## CARROLL DANIEL CONSTRUCTION COMPANY

Brian Daniel '00, president of Carroll Daniel Construction Company and a proud alumnus of Southern Polytechnic State University, understands the profound importance of quality education in one's life. Recently, his company made a transformative gift to Kennesaw State University that will resonate for generations to come.

With a generous six-figure gift, Daniel established the Carroll Daniel Construction Scholarship, an endowed fund dedicated to supporting students in KSU's College of Architecture and Construction Management.



Daniel's contribution, matched by The Construction Management 1:1 Matching Fund, resulted in a \$200,000 endowment poised to significantly aid students pursuing their bachelor's or master's degrees in construction management.

"Carroll Daniel Construction is one of the college's most valued partners and supporters," said Dean Hazem Rashed-Ali. "We are delighted to receive their generous gift. This gift strengthens our ability to provide our students with the financial support they need and deserve so that they can succeed in their programs and go on to play an important role in shaping the future of the construction industry."

\*Pending USG BOR approval.

# A LEGACY OF GENEROSITY AND VISION

Norman Radow H'23, an esteemed real estate visionary and CEO of The RADCO Companies, and his wife, Lindy, have been instrumental in fostering growth and innovation at Kennesaw State University.

The couple's profound dedication is more than philanthropy; it is a partnership based on the belief that education enriches lives and builds a better world.

"Lindy and I are both products of public education," said Norman Radow. "It transformed our lives. Without access to the high-quality education KSU can provide, an entire generation could be lost."

Throughout the years, the Radows have made it their mission to support KSU in multifaceted ways. Their journey began with a desire to give back and has evolved into a legacy of revolutionary contributions that span scholarships, endowments, and campus enrichment projects.

"Committed philanthropists and visionaries like Norman and Lindy Radow understand the powerful and lasting impact that support can have on individuals, communities, and organizations," said Kennesaw State President Kathy S. Schwaig. "Their support is woven deeply into KSU, and the proud Radow legacy can be seen and felt in our classrooms, across our campus grounds, and even more so in the lives of the students and proud KSU alumni they have helped succeed."



In December 2020, the Radows made a landmark \$9 million donation to the College of Humanities and Social Sciences. This extraordinary contribution led to the college's renaming as the Norman J. Radow College of Humanities and Social Sciences.

The gift has empowered the college to expand its academic programs, enhance research opportunities, and support student scholarships, directly impacting thousands of students' educational journeys.

"When we celebrate the magnitude of Norman and Lindy Radows' generosity and commitment to this university and to our college, we also want to honor the individual, generational, and life-altering impact they have on each student they support," said Dean Katie Kaukinen. "For example, the Lindy Radow Honors Scholarship enabled the academic advancement and success of 46 students in the 2024-25 academic year alone. They are fundamentally changing lives and building futures."

With student success at the forefront of the Radows' support of KSU, they have established four endowed scholarships designated to fields of study across the university. In 2014, the Radows established the Paul Radow Scholarship program for the Southern Polytechnic College of Engineering and Engineering Technology to honor the memory of Norman's father, who was a gifted engineer, and pay homage to the legacy of SPSU after its consolidation with KSU.

Norman and Lindy Radow continue to shape the next generation of innovators and leaders across the university with their other scholarships supporting the study of disciplines within the Norman J. Radow College of Humanities and Social Sciences and College of Architecture and the Construction Management.

The Radows have expanded their legacy in recent years with significant new gifts. In 2021, they endowed the Radow Institute of Social Equity, which seeks to address the



**CHARLOTTE MCCLUNG '24**  
Mechanical Engineering  
Paul Radow Scholarship Program

"I chose to study mechanical engineering because I wanted to combine my love of design and my interest in helping improve our way of living. Because of the Paul Radow Scholarship, I am able to pursue my dream. Eventually, I hope to become a forensic engineer to prevent engineering failures and help ensure safety in the field."



**EMMANUEL OLAWALE '25**  
Psychology  
Lindy Radow Humanities and Social Sciences Scholarship

"Because of the Lindy Radow Humanities and Social Sciences Scholarship, I am able to pursue my dream of becoming a doctor — a dream I previously felt was impossible because I had exhausted all other financial aid opportunities."



**Wael ABDELWAHAB '24**  
Construction Management  
Norman J. Radow "Building Better Living" Scholarship

"Receiving the Building Better Living Scholarship means a lot to me and my family. It helped ease the pressure of trying to work full time and take a full course load as I pursue my career in construction management."

challenges of social justice, equity, and economic inequality within our society while developing sustainable solutions to address these challenges.

The following year, they established the Dr. Norman J. Radow Endowed Dean's Chair of Humanities and Social Sciences. This endowment, awarded to Dean Katie Kaukinen on August 8, 2024, symbolizes a long-term investment in academic excellence and leadership within the college.

Beyond the Radows' academic support, their generosity also extends to aesthetic and functional enhancements of the KSU campus. Their contributions include funding for campus beautification projects and donations of artwork and furniture to the Norman J. Radow College of Humanities and Social Sciences, creating an enriching environment for students and faculty alike. Recognizing the importance of athletics in shaping

well-rounded student experiences, the Radows' recent gift of \$1 million to the KSU Athletics Capital Campaign will support the development of a state-of-the-art Sports Performance Complex.\* The new facility will provide student-athletes with advanced resources for training, rehabilitation, and overall wellness, fostering excellence in KSU's athletics program.

The Radows' unwavering commitment to Kennesaw State University exemplifies the profound impact philanthropy has on enriching lives and advancing institutions. As KSU continues to grow and evolve, the enduring legacy of the Radow family will undoubtedly serve as a cornerstone of the university's success and a pillar of inspiration for future generations.



“**THEY ARE FUNDAMENTALLY CHANGING LIVES AND BUILDING FUTURES.**”  
- Dean Katie Kaukinen

\*Pending USG BOR approval.

# EMPOWERING FUTURE BUSINESS LEADERS

Jagdish (Jag) and Madhuri (Madhu) Sheth have long believed in the life-changing power of education.

With a generous gift of \$100,000 to Kennesaw State University, they are creating new opportunities for undergraduate students in the Michael J. Coles College of Business. Their contribution will establish the Madhuri and Jagdish N. Sheth Marketing Scholarship, designed to support business students in their journey toward success.

This scholarship will open doors for aspiring business leaders, particularly first-generation students, by ensuring they can thrive in their academic pursuits. It also reflects the Sheths' deep commitment to nurturing talent and fostering a brighter future for the university community.

“Dr. Sheth's influence must be counted, not just in articles and books published or students taught, but in terms of the outsized impact he has had as a mentor in the lives of scores of students, faculty, and business leaders,” said Dr. Mona Sinha, chair of the Department of Marketing and Professional Sales. “His visionary and groundbreaking ideas have transcended academia and business to reach governments and policymakers. His intellectual and human contributions combined with his philanthropy have been transformative for the marketing discipline and beyond.”

Jag Sheth, Ph.D., a world-renowned scholar and expert in relationship marketing and customer centricity, has profoundly influenced the field of marketing. With more than 300 authored works, Jag has garnered international acclaim, including the Padma Bhushan Award, India's highest civilian honor for literature and education.

His journey from an international graduate student at the University of Pittsburgh in 1961 to a faculty member at Columbia University in 1963 and the

Charles H. Kellstadt Professor of Business at Emory University since 1991 illustrates his dedication to academic excellence and cultural exchange.

Madhu, a former schoolteacher in India, has always been passionate about education and community service. In addition to her teaching background, she actively supports the local Jain Center, where she chairs the construction committee responsible for doubling its capacity.

Her dedication extends to her involvement with JAINA, the federation of Jain Centers across North America, where she serves on the women's committee. Madhu oversees inviting speakers on various topics, including holistic medicine, financial planning, cryptocurrency, and AI.



The Sheths have previously established the Sheth International Distinguished Alumni Award and the Madhuri and Jagdish N. Sheth Faculty Award for Distinguished International Achievement at KSU. These awards honor alumni and faculty who exemplify humanitarian service and global leadership, underscoring the university's commitment to fostering responsible, culturally aware leaders.

“I am immensely proud of Dr. Sheth's contributions to and collaborations with Kennesaw State University and the Coles College of Business,” said Kennesaw State University Vice Provost Sheb True. “I have witnessed his impact on the quality of our faculty's scholarship and how he extended our reach into the business and academic communities, from local to international.”

Through their most recent endowment, the Sheths continue to leave an indelible mark on the KSU community, championing education as a catalyst for change and opportunity.



# < > BUILDING TOMORROW: A HISTORY OF UNWAVERING SUPPORT

In February 2024, Kennesaw State University celebrated the dedication of its Academic Learning Center, now named in honor of its largest family benefactors.

In a ceremony attended by deans, faculty, and scholarship recipients, the newly christened Morgan and Bailey Academic Learning Center was unveiled, marking a significant milestone in the university's history. This dedication recognizes the extraordinary philanthropic contributions of Audrey Morgan H'23 and her late sister, Bobbie Bailey H'98.

With cumulative support exceeding \$17 million, the Morgan/Bailey family holds the distinction of being KSU's most generous family donors. Their legacy of giving spans decades and has profoundly impacted numerous facets of the university.

"I cannot think of a better building on our campus to be named after our dear friends Dr. Bobbie Bailey and Dr. Audrey Morgan — two women, two sisters, who have a legacy of impacting the next generation and making opportunities for students here at Kennesaw State," said KSU President Kathy S. Schwaig during the unveiling.

Morgan, speaking on behalf of herself and her late sister, expressed deep gratitude for the honor.

"When my sister and I started our foundation, our stated purpose was

education, healthcare, arts, and human services, and over the years, we have supported all these areas," Morgan shared. "But from the start, our focus and our major support has always been education. All of us know that education has the ability to transform lives, and the transformation is not in just that one life, but the impact will be compounded over the years by the contributions they'll make in their families, in their communities, and in our society."

The sister's philanthropic journey with KSU began in 1993, shortly after Bailey formed a close friendship with former KSU President Betty Siegel. Since then, their support has been unwavering and multifaceted.

"These two determined sisters adopted KSU as their own and set out to indelibly transform our university," said Vice President for Advancement and CEO of the KSU Foundation Lance Burchett. "How extraordinary it is that of the relatively few honorary doctorates bestowed in KSU's 60-year history, these two ladies stand mightily at the front of those distinguished ranks."

In 2021, the Bobbie Bailey Foundation made a landmark \$4 million gift, providing additional support to the Bobbie Bailey Foundation Endowed Nursing Scholarship and establishing three new endowed scholarships for KSU Journey Honors College students. The scholarships are targeted toward Honors students pursuing degrees in the Southern Polytechnic College of Engineering and Engineering Technology and the College of Computing and Software Engineering, as well as toward Honors student-athletes.

That same year, Morgan donated \$5 million via the Bobbie Bailey Foundation, bolstering the Dr. Bobbie Bailey Endowed Music Scholarship and creating the Dr. Bobbie Bailey Endowed Honors Music Scholarship. This groundbreaking contribution led to the naming of the Dr. Bobbie Bailey School of Music at KSU.



**JASMINE SCRUGGS '24**  
Exercise Science  
Bobbie Bailey Honors Athlete

"Having grown up as an athlete who depended on physical therapists and athletic trainers, I was always interested in what they did. Kennesaw State University has provided me with an incredible academic career. The community here and scholarship support I've received continue to help me pursue my dream."



**ELLIOT LAREZ '25**  
Computer Science  
Bobbie Bailey Foundation  
Honors/College of Computing  
and Software Engineering  
Scholarship Endowment

"Thanks to KSU, I connected with a virtual reality community and companies that offered me employment to follow my passion for simulations after graduation. I wouldn't have been able to get this far if not for my time at Kennesaw State and the scholarships that have enabled me to achieve my goals."



**KATHARINE KOSOWSKI '24**  
Vocal Performance  
Audrey and Jack Morgan Music  
Scholarship

"KSU has provided a very safe and nurturing place for me to learn how to become a successful professional musician. Thank you to Audrey and Jack Morgan for your continued support to help me achieve my dreams — empowering me to spend more time focusing on my schoolwork and becoming the artist I aspire to be."



# < > DONOR EXTENDS LEGACY OF GIVING WITH SCHOOL OF NURSING



**I CANNOT THINK OF A BETTER BUILDING ON OUR CAMPUS TO BE NAMED AFTER OUR DEAR FRIENDS DR. BOBBIE BAILEY AND DR. AUDREY MORGAN — TWO WOMEN, TWO SISTERS, WHO HAVE A LEGACY OF IMPACTING THE NEXT GENERATION AND MAKING OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS HERE AT KENNESAW STATE.**

- President Kathy S. Schwaig

The Morgan/Bailey family's generosity is far-reaching, impacting programs and initiatives across the university. Their donations include 27 Steinway pianos to the School of Music, the establishment of the Dr. Bobbie Bailey and Family Performance Center, the Audrey and Jack Morgan Endowed Scholarship in Music, and a significant gift to name the Audrey and Jack Morgan Concert Hall.

The family's support of KSU Athletics has been instrumental, leading to the naming of the Dr. Bobbie Bailey Athletic Complex and Bailey Park. Additionally, in 2018, they established the Audrey Morgan Nursing Scholarship to address nursing shortages in Georgia.

The dedication of the Morgan and Bailey Academic Learning Center stands as a testament to Audrey Morgan and Bobbie Bailey's enduring legacy. Their commitment to education and community is an inspiring example, encouraging others to give back and contribute to Kennesaw State University's continued growth and success.

Dick Yarbrough, the longtime syndicated newspaper columnist and public relations executive, has established two endowments totaling \$400,000 in honor of his late wife, Jane.

Yarbrough dedicated a scholarship endowment in 2022 in his wife's name to support career-changing, nontraditional students pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN). In addition to funding two more endowments for nontraditional nursing students, part of Yarbrough's latest gift will also support faculty to advance nursing education and research at KSU.

Jane Yarbrough enrolled in Kennesaw State's nursing program while her two children were in college. After earning her degree, she worked as a registered nurse at Piedmont Hospital for a brief time and then went on to a career as an occupational nurse for Delta Airlines. She passed away in 2020.

Since her passing, Yarbrough has sought to keep his wife's memory alive through gifts to the program that embraced a 42-year-old college student with "life experience," as he called it.

"I wanted to do something to pay homage to my wife for what she accomplished," Yarbrough said. "What better way than in the field of nursing that she loved, and what better place than at Kennesaw State? It was meant to be. Her name will be associated with this program for years to come. That's my goal — to honor my wife, to help the

nursing profession, and to hope that out of this comes something that will positively impact people in the future."

Monica Swahn, dean of the Wellstar College of Health and Human Services and the Dr. Betty L. Siegel Distinguished Chair in Health and Wellness, said Yarbrough continues to be a champion for nursing and research in the Wellstar School of Nursing.

"Once again, we have Dick Yarbrough to thank for expanding not just the practice but the study of nursing in the Wellstar School of Nursing," Swahn said. "The scholarships will help career-changing students on their paths to the profession, and the other endowment will assist our faculty as they elevate their research in service of nursing."





# PHILANTHROPY AT WORK:

## PRESIDENT'S PARLIAMENT SCHOLAR AMBASSADORS

The President's Parliament, Kennesaw State University's premier giving society, was established in 2019 to provide KSU's president with unrestricted funds to support the university's mission. That same year, President's Parliament gifts were used to fund the Gap Scholarship, a scholarship awarded to students in their final semesters who need financial assistance to earn their degree but have exhausted all other financial aid options.

In the fall of 2023, the funds were deployed to create another scholarship program: the President's Parliament Scholar Ambassadors (PPSA). The program recognizes students who display the highest levels of academic excellence and campus or community engagement. With a mission of fostering a sense of community, the ambassadors serve the university by generating KSU pride and a spirit of philanthropy while promoting and strengthening lasting relationships with KSU.

### MEET THE INAUGURAL CLASS OF PRESIDENT'S PARLIAMENT SCHOLAR AMBASSADORS:



#### YASMINE CHAGAS '26

Psychology  
Norman J. Radow College of Humanities and Social Sciences

This past semester as a President's Parliament Scholar Ambassador has exposed me to many amazing academic and professional opportunities. I cherish the connections I've made with graduates, trustees, university leadership, and other ambassadors I've had the honor of working alongside as a President's Parliament Scholar Ambassador. From confidence and communication to connections and leadership, PPSA has taught me many vital skills I will carry with me throughout my professional career.

Looking ahead to the upcoming year as a PPSA director of student leadership, I am enthusiastic about guiding and empowering fellow scholars to thrive and reach their full potential in various aspects of their lives. I hope to inspire my peers to discover their own passions and strengthen their skills to positively impact our university and the community.

#### CALEB CRUZ '25

Nursing  
Wellstar College of Health and Human Services  
KSU Journey Honors College

I have had many great opportunities as a President's Parliament Scholar Ambassador. This program has allowed me to develop relationships with KSU trustees, alumni, and the president herself, all while increasing my knowledge of the history of our rapidly growing university.

The opportunity I am most thankful for is the team of students and lifelong friends I have bonded with through PPSA. As a leader this year, I look forward to helping others grow and become their best selves. I genuinely believe we can all learn and grow from each other, and I want everyone to feel like they have a role on our team and within the university community.



#### DONALTHEA DRYSDALE '27

Computer Science and Computer Engineering  
College of Computing and Software Engineering  
KSU Journey Honors College

My experience as a President's Parliament Scholar Ambassador at KSU has provided a wealth of opportunities that extend far beyond the typical student experience. As a PPSA member, I have the unique privilege of attending board meetings, engaging directly with KSU leadership, and making a lasting impression on influential decision-makers. This role allows me to build a robust professional network that will be invaluable for my future career.

In the upcoming year, I am particularly excited about contributing to the recruitment process of our next cohort, through which I can help identify peers who are equally excited about ensuring our community continues to thrive and excel. I'm looking forward to the opportunity to foster a sense of belonging among new members, making them feel welcome and supported as they embark on their journeys as a representative of our university.

#### CLAUDIA GARAVIS MONTAGUT '26

International Affairs  
Norman J. Radow College of Humanities and Social Sciences  
KSU Journey Honors College

Being a President's Parliament Scholar Ambassador has shaped my life in many ways. In addition to being able to network and obtain career opportunities, being part of PPSA has given me a family composed of KSU students constantly seeking to grow in every aspect of their lives. PPSA represents a community of people shaped for success and embracing KSU's values and vision.

Becoming a PPSA leader this upcoming year, I look forward to guiding all members and helping them get closer to achieving their academic and personal goals. At the same time, I hope to enhance and promote awareness of and gratitude toward our Owl family.



#### NICK FARINACCI '26

Mechanical Engineering  
Southern Polytechnic College of Engineering and  
Engineering Technology  
KSU Journey Honors College

Representing Kennesaw State University as an inaugural member of the President's Parliament Scholar Ambassadors has been an honor. Over the past six months, thanks to the opportunities this program has afforded me, I have grown immensely as a leader and as a representative of KSU.

Just a few months ago, I had the incredible opportunity to introduce Dr. Sonny Perdue, chancellor of the University System of Georgia, during my speech at the groundbreaking ceremony of KSU's I-STEM Building. From my role in PPSA thus far, I have grown in my public speaking skills and feel equipped with the tools to continue representing the university and furthering my lifelong dreams as a leader. As an upcoming board member of this rapidly growing program, I am eager to continue my role as a student ambassador and honored to serve as a figurehead of KSU's unwavering commitment and meticulous attention to its students.



## PRESIDENT'S PARLIAMENT



### DANA LONDON '24

Accounting  
Michael J. Coles College of Business

Being part of the President's Parliament Scholar Ambassadors was an incredibly enriching experience that deeply influenced my personal growth and professional path. This role really honed my leadership and project management skills, allowing me to collaborate closely with a diverse and talented group of peers and mentors.

Looking ahead, I'm thrilled to continue my academic journey at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, pursuing a Master of Accounting Science with a concentration in data analytics. Thanks to a heartfelt recommendation from President Kathy S. Schwaig, stemming from our many interactions during the PPSA program, I was awarded a full

scholarship. Following a truly rewarding summer internship, I received a full-time offer to join Microsoft's Financial Rotational Program 2025 Cohort. I'm excited about this next chapter, when I'll further develop my skills and embark on what I hope will be a fulfilling career in finance and data analytics, all thanks to my time at KSU.

### HOLDEN LOOPER '24

Construction Management  
College of Architecture and Construction Management

Participating in the President's Parliament Scholar Ambassadors program was an incredible journey filled with countless opportunities. I attended noteworthy events, including groundbreaking ceremonies, KSU Day at the Capitol, and KSU Foundation board meetings. These experiences allowed me to network with influential leaders connected to KSU, showing me how much our community and state leaders care for our university.

Additionally, I forged valuable relationships with fellow ambassadors and gained insights that will undoubtedly shape my future endeavors. Having just graduated, I am thrilled to join the alumni family and remain committed to giving back to our growing university!



### EDWARD SADLER '25

Computer Science  
College of Computing and Software Engineering

As a President's Parliament Scholar Ambassador, I have had the opportunity to connect deeply with many profoundly passionate members of the KSU community. Additionally, being in PPSA has given me a network of incredible leaders, communicators, and mentors. One of the many examples was the mentor relationship I built with Dr. Sohyung Cho, chair of the Department of Industrial Systems Engineering, at an event.

From the other PPSA members to the supportive staff in the Division of University Advancement, there is always a role model to learn from. I look forward to meeting the new PPSA members in the upcoming year. My favorite part of this program has been connecting with other ambassadors, each with a shared passion for KSU and a unique KSU story.

### GARRETT SHEDD '26

Theatre and Performance Studies  
College of the Arts

Being a member of the President's Parliament Scholar Ambassadors program has offered me so many networking opportunities. I have greatly enjoyed the opportunity this program has given me to meet with various directors and program leaders representing departments across KSU.

Because of PPSA, I can share my story and am proud to serve as an example for my major and fellow students here at KSU. I'm looking forward to joining the executive board this year and making an even more significant impact on my peers. I can't wait to continue to serve and show people within our community the best parts of KSU!

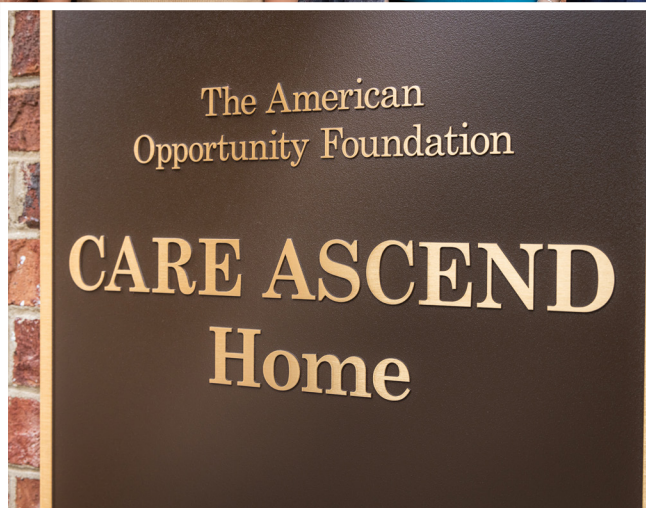


### ELLA SMITH '25

Public Relations  
Norman J. Radow College of Humanities and Social Sciences  
KSU Journey Honors College

Being in the inaugural President's Parliament Scholar Ambassadors cohort has been a dream come true! Through my acceptance into this program, I received a scholarship to support my academic endeavors and was welcomed into a community of high-achieving leaders. I have been so inspired by my peers I get to work alongside as a member of the PPSA program.

Through PPSA, I have improved my professionalism, networking, communication, and leadership skills, which will prepare me for my future. I cherish every opportunity to converse with university leadership, donors, KSU faculty and staff, alumni, and community leaders. I look forward to the second year of PPSA and am excited to see the cohort expand.



# CREATING OPPORTUNITY AND COMMUNITY

In a world in which education has the transformative power to unlock the doors to a brighter future, American Opportunity Foundation (AOF) stands as a beacon of hope for Kennesaw State University students.

Since 2017, AOF has provided more than \$1 million in support of KSU's Campus Awareness, Resource & Empowerment (CARE) Services and the ASCEND program, profoundly impacting college students facing basic needs insecurities and those who experienced homelessness or foster care in high school.

Kathy Walker, AOF CFO and trustee, recalls the foundation's initial foray into philanthropy within metro Atlanta.

"In the fall of 2016, our board sought ways to impact communities close to home," Walker explained.

Recognizing education as a critical factor in breaking the cycle of poverty, Walker was tasked with crafting a charitable giving program. Her daughter, then a KSU student, introduced her to the pressing issue of homeless students on campus.

The revelation led Walker to Assistant Vice President for Student Wellbeing Marcy Stidum, who founded CARE Services at KSU. With an initial gift of \$45,000 to sponsor a two-bedroom dorm and two \$15,000 scholarship funds, AOF's partnership with KSU began.

"Through their commitment to CARE, AOF is transforming the lives of youth who have experienced homelessness and the foster care system," said Director of CARE Services Lauren Padgett. "The support of AOF means students served by CARE have access to essential basic needs, such as stable housing, as they pursue their higher education dreams. We are honored to call AOF part of our Kennesaw State family."

"To be able to directly benefit these students who have endured so much and overcome so many obstacles is truly a blessing," Walker said.

CARE Services and the ASCEND program provide essential support, ensuring students can focus on their studies without the constant worry of where they will sleep or find their next meal. Will Fisher, American Opportunity Foundation trustee, emphasized the significance of this work.

"Education is a key driver for economic mobility," Fisher explained. "The support we provide helps remove barriers, allowing students to fulfill their potential."

In 2022, AOF made a \$250,000 gift to endow one of the three ASCEND houses on the Marietta Campus. *The American Opportunity Foundation CARE ASCEND Home* was celebrated at a naming ceremony in March 2024 in honor of AOF's contributions.

The foundation's support and confidence in the work of CARE Services has grown steadily. In 2023, AOF made a \$100,000 gift to establish the ASCEND Center, a national training, research, and accreditation program focused on basic needs insecurities on college campuses.

Fisher envisions a future in which such programs are no longer necessary yet acknowledges many students' ongoing challenges.

"Ideally, CARE Services and ASCEND would become obsolete," said Fisher. "Understanding that poverty and food insecurity will never completely go away, our goal is to see these programs thrive nationwide, as this is a higher education issue, not just a KSU issue."

CARE Services is recognized as a national model for servicing students experiencing basic needs insecurities and is sought-after by other institutions seeking to replicate its success. The ASCEND Center helps colleges and universities across the country increase capacity and improve services for students with basic needs insecurities.

"The ASCEND Center is making a real difference," Walker noted. "It's inspiring to be part of a group so passionate about helping students at KSU and beyond."

Despite the immense success CARE Services and the ASCEND program have experienced, challenges remain. Walker highlights the need for increased funding to address growing demand.

"There is a waitlist of students for the ASCEND program, demonstrating the pressing challenges that students continue to face as they're pursuing their academic dreams," she said. "As word of the program spreads, the need for staff and resources will only increase."

Both Walker and Fisher hope that an endowment will one day sustain these initiatives, ensuring that



J.C. Cox (center) with fellow ASCEND students Cory Stansberry (left) and Aden Victor (right)

## J.C. COX '26 Business Administration

"American Opportunity Foundation, as well as the ASCEND program, have had a tremendous impact on my personal and academic success. The scholarships I have received from AOF have been life-altering, as they have relieved an enormous amount of stress, allowing me to focus my energy on school and use my own personal finances towards things like purchasing a vehicle, buying groceries, and investing in myself. My experiences within the ASCEND program have been equally life-changing. From getting a mentor who has trained me not only for my career, but life as well, to going on trips and making friends with a variety of people, my college experience has been much more fruitful and enjoyable than the one I anticipated prior to joining the program."

resources will always be available for KSU students in need.

In partnering with KSU, AOF not only provides immediate aid but also fosters a community of resilience and hope. Its generosity and vision offer a compelling example of how philanthropy can change lives and inspire future generations to give back, creating a cycle of empowerment and opportunity.

# < > MICKEY DUNN STADIUM

In a momentous celebration on April 30, 2024, Kennesaw State University proudly announced the naming of Mickey Dunn Stadium, a testament to the pivotal \$2.5 million gift from Kennesaw State University alumnus Mickey Dunn '18. This historic contribution, combined with Dunn's most recent gift of \$150,000, marks a new era for KSU baseball. The event, attended by university leadership, friends, family members, and KSU Athletics supporters, illustrated the profound impact of Dunn's generosity.

"Mickey Dunn and his family have helped change the future for our baseball program and KSU Athletics through this generous gift," said Director of Athletics Milton Overton. "Mickey and Teresa inspire me every day with their commitment to their faith, family, and willingness to pour their time and treasures into making life better for those around them."

Mickey Dunn, a steadfast advocate for KSU Athletics and exemplary alumnus, has long been a pillar of support for the university. His visionary donation was the largest received by KSU Athletics at the time, a gift that will indelibly enhance the experience of Kennesaw State's student-athletes and elevate the university's stature in collegiate sports.

"Kennesaw State University, our student-athletes, and I are honored and blessed to have the Dunns in our Owl family," Overton said. "Our athletes, coaches, students, alumni, staff, and fans will have a great experience inside this campus jewel. We are proud to call Mickey Dunn Stadium the future home of KSU baseball."

During the ceremony, Vice President for Advancement and CEO of the KSU Foundation



Lance Burchett highlighted the significance of this landmark contribution.

"Mickey Dunn is a one-of-a-kind hero to many of us," explained Burchett. "He started every game during his four-year career at Southern Polytechnic State University as the center fielder. He never hit a home run until the last at-bat of his senior year. On this day, we celebrate not just his second home run but a grand slam that has forever changed the landscape of KSU Athletics."

The new Mickey Dunn Stadium, set to open in 2025, will not only serve as the epicenter for KSU's baseball operations but also as a source of pride and aspiration for KSU students, athletes, and supporters. The state-of-the-art facility will feature cutting-edge amenities, providing a premier environment for both players and fans.

Mickey Dunn Stadium represents a bright future for KSU Athletics, in which dedication and philanthropy converge to create opportunities and inspire student success. This ambitious project is not just about building a stadium;

it is about creating a home for excellence, fostering community, and nurturing the talents and dreams of KSU student-athletes.

"This is a massive project for KSU baseball, and the generous gift of Mickey Dunn will help us in our quest to win championships and mold professionals on and off the field," said Ryan Coe, head coach of Kennesaw State baseball. "I cannot thank Mickey and his family enough for how impactful this will be. It truly hits home when an alumnus steps up to make a generational difference. We will do our best to make him proud."



## < > CHAIR'S LETTER

The start of my role as chair of the KSU Foundation Board of Trustees has been filled with excitement as Kennesaw State University is achieving a new level of prominence. I am excited to continue the momentum that The Campaign for KSU has generated in our community and state.

We are focused on a time of transformation and growth. As the Foundation, we will continue to support the university through our commitment to integrity, excellence, and financial stewardship. We demonstrate fiduciary responsibility and development in all aspects of the board's role. Whether it is endowment growth, real estate development, or priority-project support for the

colleges and units, we are committed to supporting the needs of our students. I am so proud of the group of trustees who make up our board. It is composed of talented individuals who are deeply committed to serving KSU in a student-focused way.

Thank you for joining us to help see more students walk across the stage at graduation. Just last year, we celebrated more than 8,000 graduates. With the growth of housing, program offerings, and student scholarships, we want to see that number continue to rise. We could not do this without your commitment to KSU, and for that, we are grateful.

Go Owls!

**Teddy Parrish '95**  
Chair, KSU Foundation



## <> CEO'S LETTER

It is with deep appreciation for your remarkable generosity that I bring you these greetings!

Our Foundation was established 55 years ago, and the past five have seen record-breaking achievements in philanthropic support at Kennesaw State University. In FY24, we exceeded our fundraising goals, and our scholarship impact was an unprecedented \$4.99 million.

The National Association of College & University Business Officers (NACUBO) recognized KSU as No. 1 in the state of Georgia in endowment growth and in the top 5% of all 700+ NACUBO participants nationwide. It is your investments that fuel the impact on our students' lives as they pursue their degrees. We are tremendously grateful for your partnership.

Your philanthropy changes the trajectory of our students and their entire families in a multigenerational way. Your contributions to the KSU Foundation have furthered our ability to prepare students for the workforce, deliver groundbreaking research, and establish scholars in multiple fields.

Thank you for your support and leadership!

**Lance Burchett**

*Vice President for University Advancement & CEO of the KSU Foundation, Inc.*

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**Dr. Kathy S. Schwaig**, *KSU President*

**Ms. Judith Moen**, *Vice Chair Nominating Committee*

**Mr. Lance Burchett**, *VP for Advancement & CEO of the KSU Foundation\**

\*Ex-Officio

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Dr. Don Johnson

Mr. Chris Pike '84

Mr. Mark Wilson

Mr. Jim Dunn

Mr. Doug Jones '90

Dr. Ivan Pulinkala\*

Mr. Mickey Dunn '18

Mr. Randy Koporc

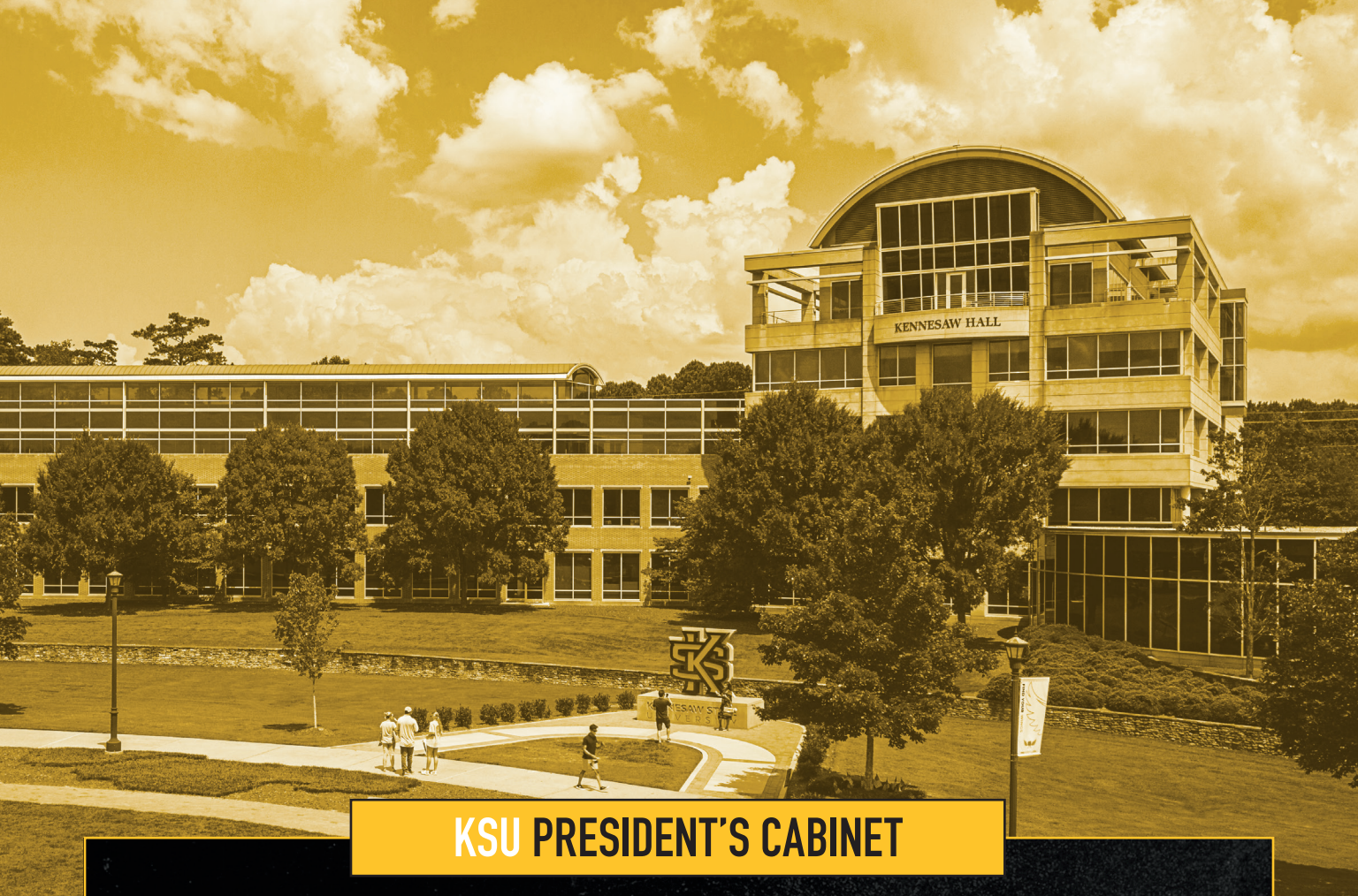
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\*Ex-Officio



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*Vice President of Organizational Effectiveness, Leadership Development, and Inclusive Excellence*

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*Vice President and Chief Legal Affairs Officer*

## PRESIDENT'S PARLIAMENT

President's Parliament, Kennesaw State University's premier giving society, was established to create a fund of unrestricted dollars that would provide the president the financial flexibility that is critical to meeting the university's greatest needs and priorities. The President's Parliament consists of donors whose annual gift of \$2,500 or more will have a direct and immediate impact on student success.

Mrs. Angie Alexander-Chapman and Mr. Neon Chapman

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Dr. Eric Arneson and Mrs. Tenaye Arneson

Mr. Luis Arriaga and Mrs. Veronica Gonzalez

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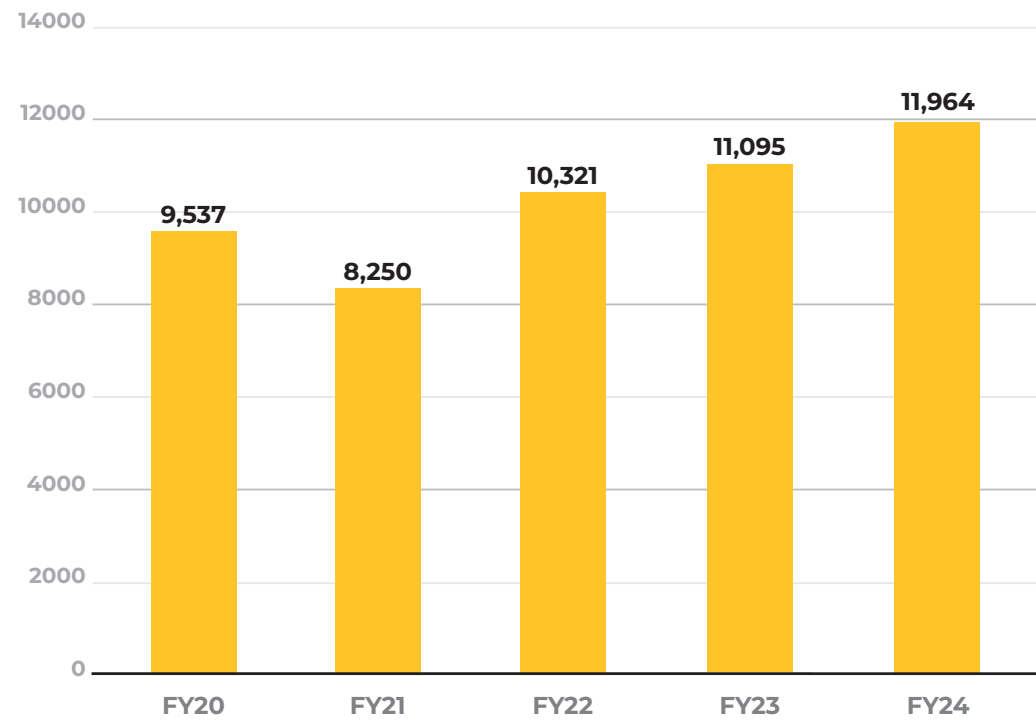
Mr. Bob Walsh and Mrs. Joanne Walsh

Mrs. Callie Warren '18 and Mr. Damian Warren

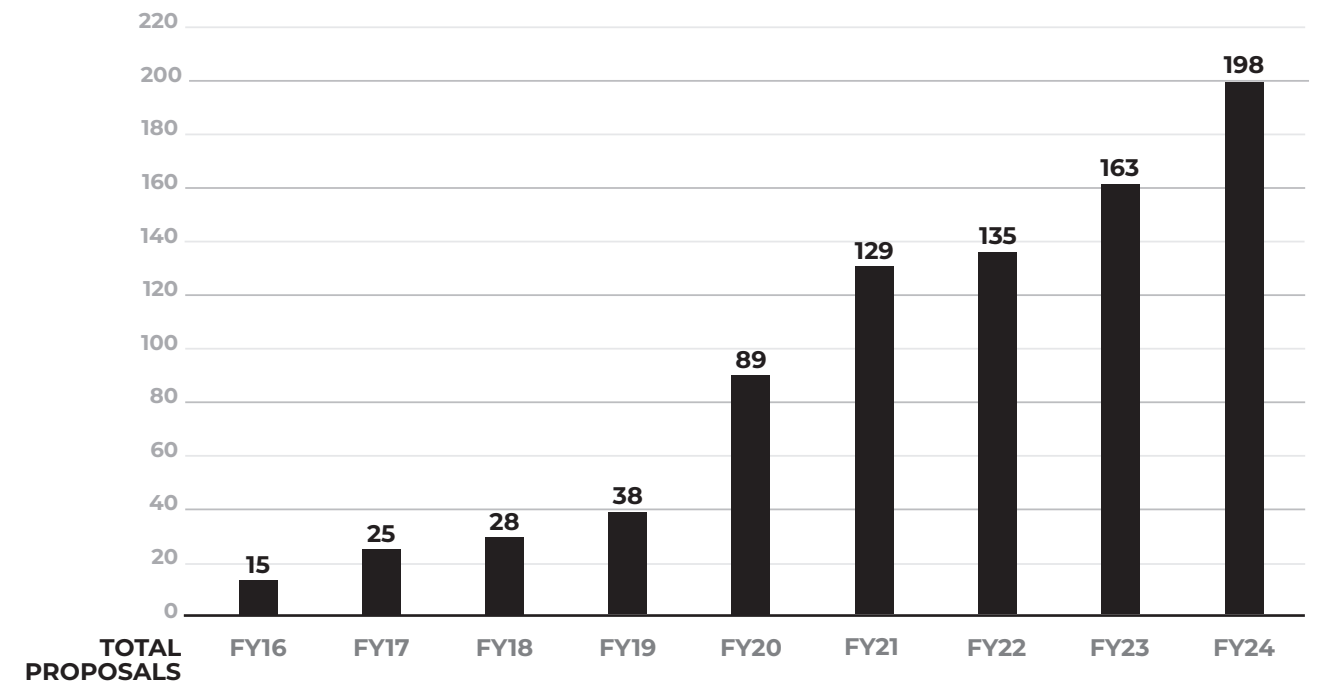
Mr. Lawrence Whitman

Mr. Tim Wilkerson and Mrs. Camille Wilkerson

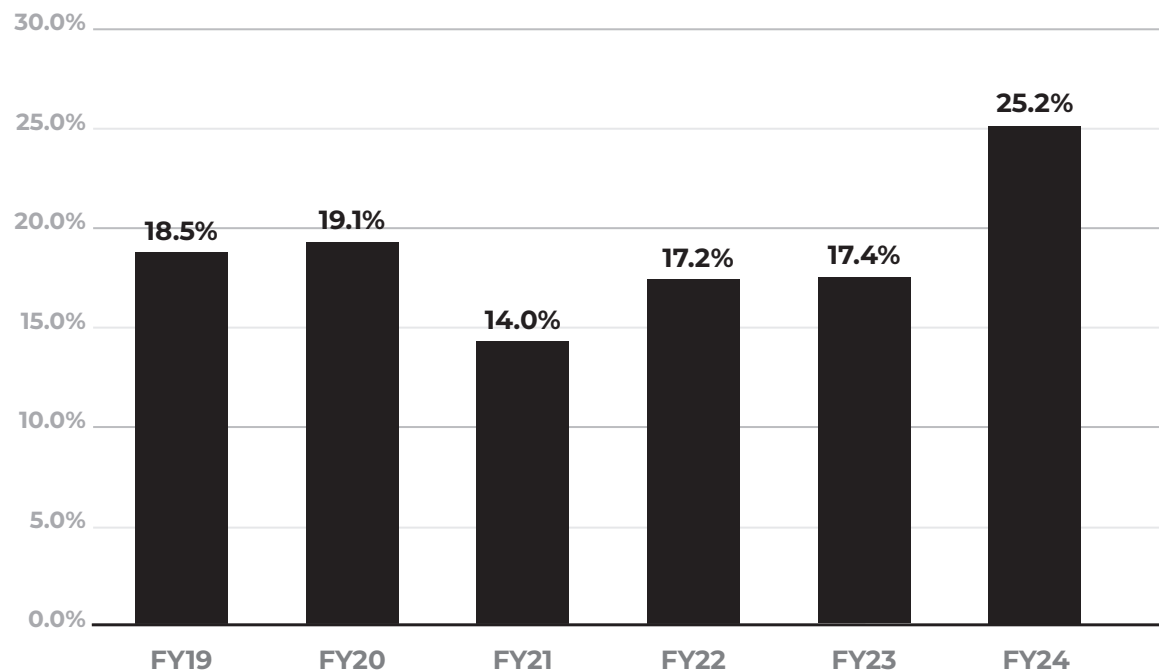
## TOTAL NUMBER OF GIFTS



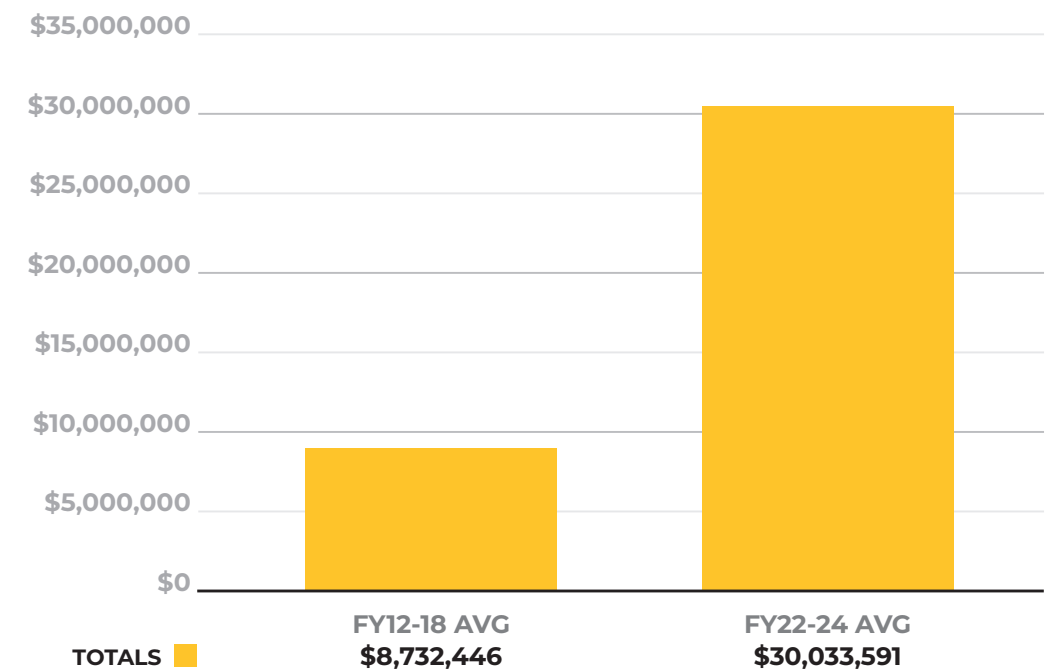
## NUMBER OF \$50,000 OR GREATER PROPOSALS



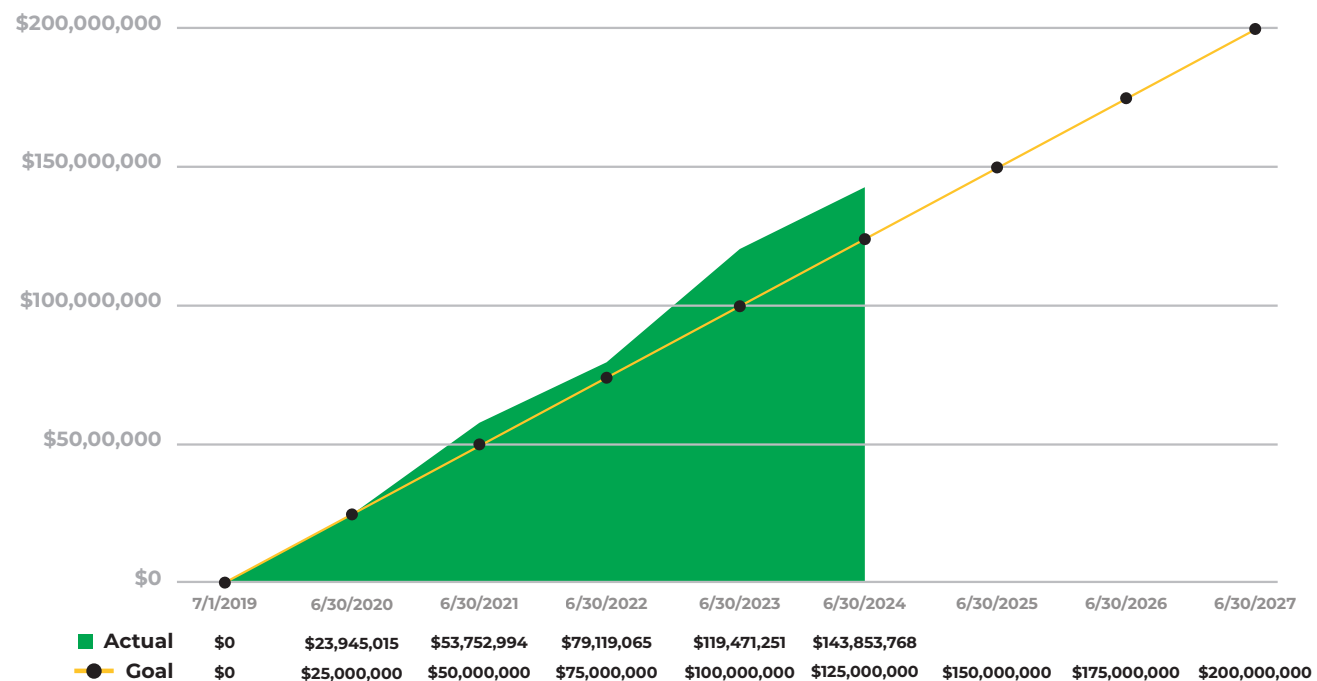
## TOTAL KSU EMPLOYEE PARTICIPATION IN GIVING



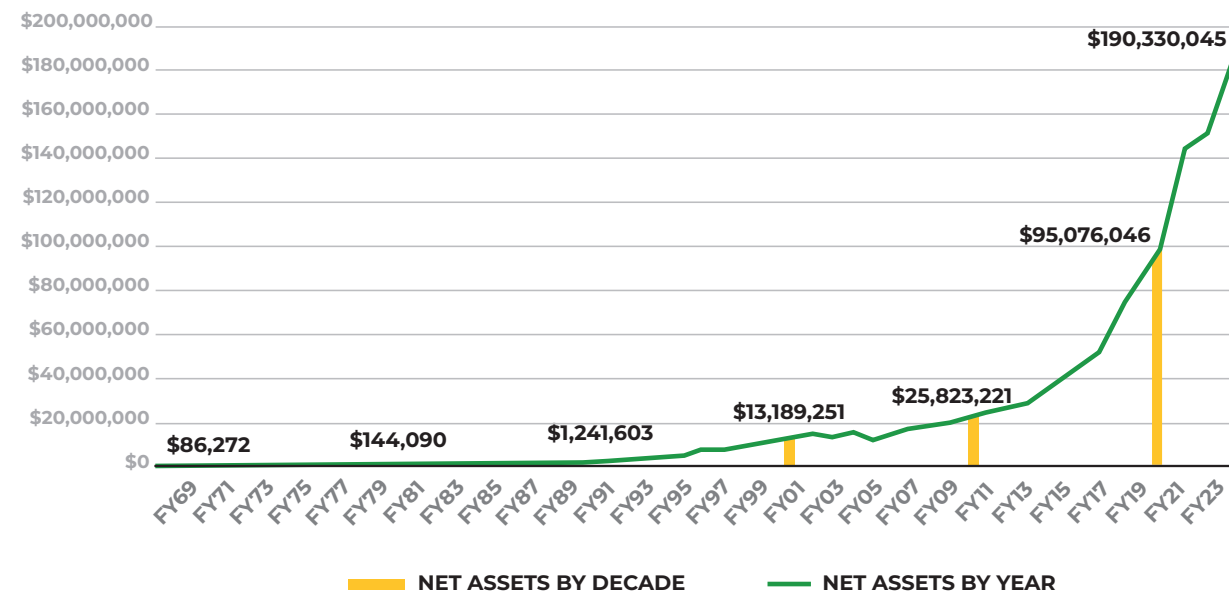
## GROWTH IN AVERAGE ANNUAL TOTAL FUNDRAISING



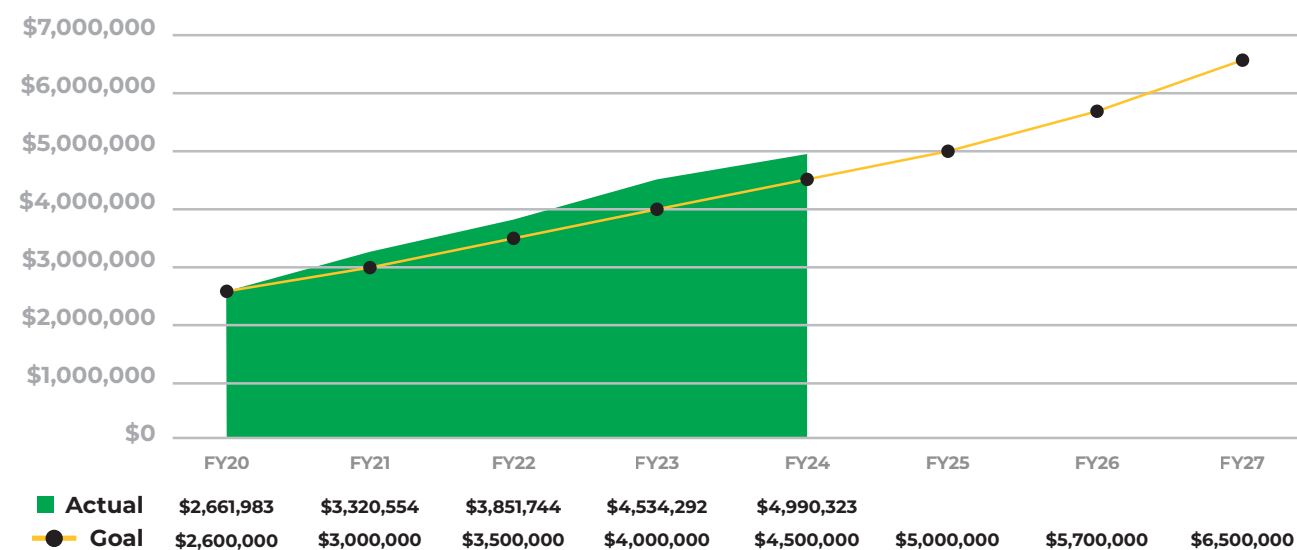
## TOTAL CAMPAIGN FUNDS RAISED FYTD VS. GOAL



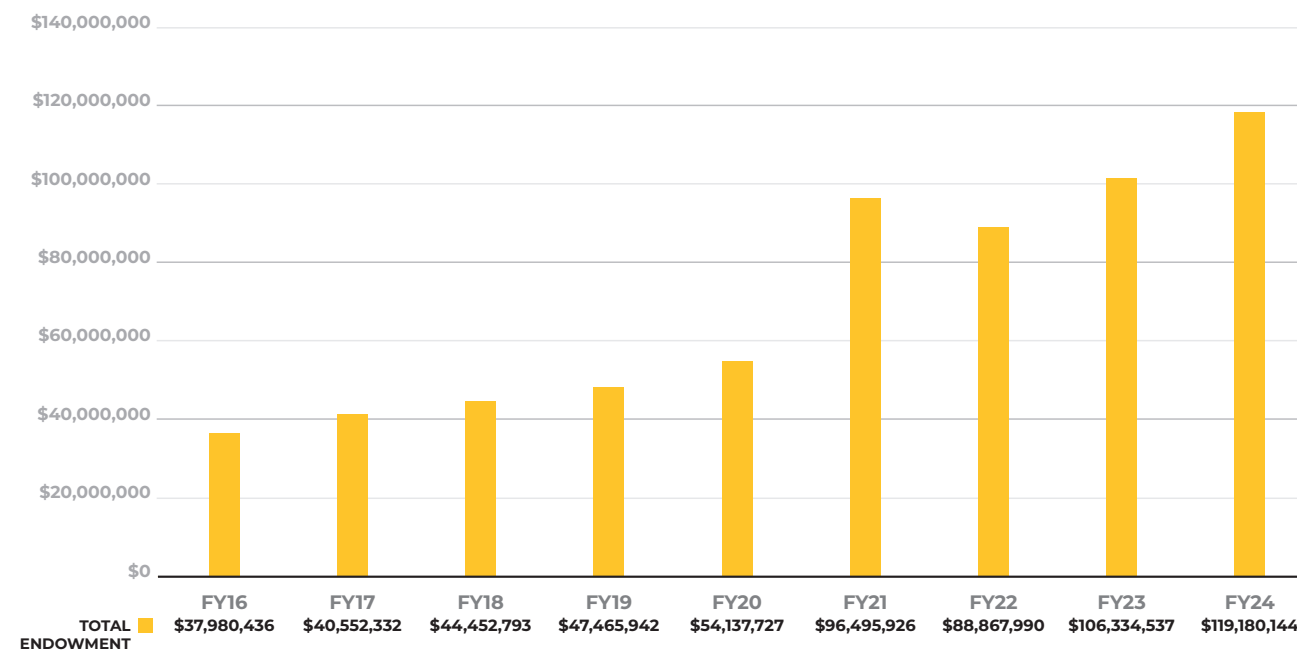
## TOTAL KSU FOUNDATION NET ASSETS



## KENNESAW STATE FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORT

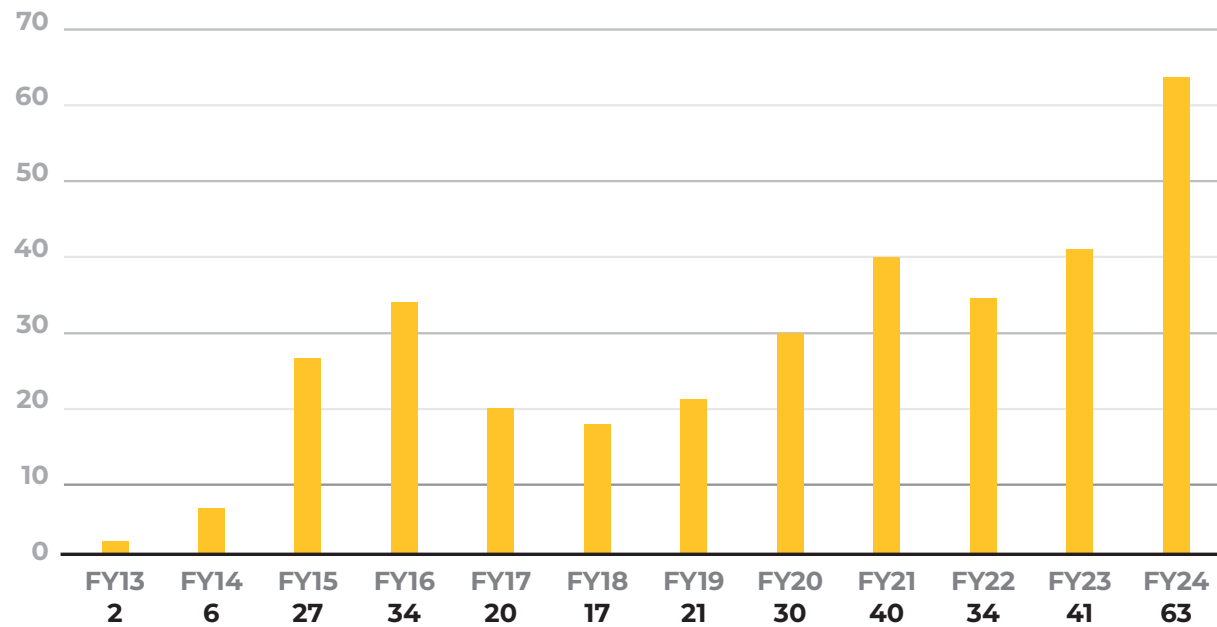


## TOTAL KSU FOUNDATION ENDOWMENT

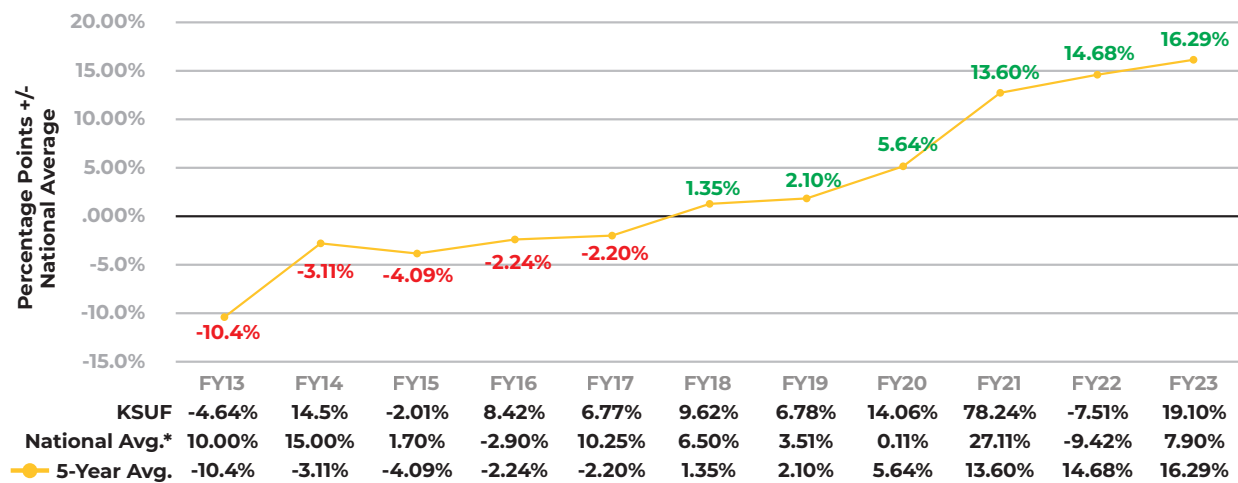




## NUMBER OF NEW ENDOWMENTS



## VARIANCE IN ANNUAL NET INCREASE IN ENDOWMENT: KSU VS. NACUBO 5-YR. TRAILING AVG.



\*The average endowment growth among NACUBO universities with endowments up to \$250 million since FY17



# THE CAMPAIGN FOR KSU OVERVIEW

# A CAMPAIGN FOR KSU FOR OUR STUDENTS FOR OUR COMMUNITY FOR OUR FUTURE

The Campaign for KSU, the largest and most ambitious fundraising initiative in the university's history, continues to gain momentum as we journey through its public phase.

Launched with a bold goal of \$200 million, this campaign is a testament to the overwhelming support from our KSU community. Together, we are making

a difference — fueling student success, advancing research, and enriching our campus and community.

Our campaign is positioned to elevate the university in the areas of student success, innovative research initiatives, community engagement, and athletics as KSU seeks to gain national prominence.



RAISED OUT OF

**\$200** MILLION  
OVERALL

AS OF FY24



RAISED OUT OF

**\$33** MILLION

FOR KSU ATHLETICS  
AS OF FY24

To learn more, visit

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