“Our mission is to serve students, to help students rise up economically, to close the equity gap, to create California’s next leaders, and to educate society. The On the Rise campaign is helping us do all of this and more every day.”

— President Robert S. Nelsen

Supporting Student Success

We are improving lives in ways that will ripple across generations.

Sacramento State students work hard every day to obtain the knowledge, skills, and the educational degree they need to better their lives, improve the trajectory of their families’ futures, and make a difference in their community.

As the premiere teaching university in California’s capital city, Sacramento State is deeply committed to ensuring our students’ success and supporting them on their journey. We have created a rich, student-centric academic experience that includes a high-quality education, applied learning opportunities, and other vital services that support the whole person.

Our efforts are producing significant results.

Sacramento State is leading the California State University system in four-year graduation rates—and we want to build on this success and do more for our students.

Our students reflect the changing demographics of our state and nation. Nearly one in three Sacramento State students are the first members of their family to attend college. Many of our students have the additional responsibility as a family provider. We are passionate about supporting our diverse students because we are confident—they will graduate and become the innovators, creators, problem-solvers, caregivers, and leaders our society needs.

On the Rise: The Campaign for Sacramento State will increase philanthropic support for our students. Here’s how:

Double the number of scholarships

Scholarships are among the most rewarding ways to give to Sacramento State because you are directly supporting our students. Establishing, contributing to, or endowing a scholarship helps ensure that Sacramento State remains affordable and accessible. It also provides opportunities to motivate and recognize our students.

Our goal is to double the number of scholarships. Here’s the direct and immediate impact on our students’ lives:

- Allows students to pay for textbooks and lab supplies; fund trips to professional conferences and competitions.
- Improves the pathway to graduation, giving students confidence and the support needed to complete their degree.
- Provides financial stability and helps alleviate stress caused by financial burdens.
- Ensures Sacramento State remains affordable.

Help more students finish their degrees

Sacramento State has numerous programs committed to helping ensure more students, regardless of their place in life, achieve their dream of obtaining a degree:

- **Finish in Four:** A university-wide strategy that focuses on increasing four-year graduation rates for Sacramento State students through academic advising, grants, and other financial incentives.
- **Through in Two:** Similar to the Finish in Four program, this program is focused on helping transfer students obtain their Sacramento State degree in two years.
- **ProjectAttain!** An initiative to help over 60,000 people who are within 15 units of completing the courses they need to obtain their college degrees.
- **Academic Support Services:** Support seven college-based student success centers that provide tutoring, academic advising, coaching, mentoring, and peer advising.
- **Health and Counseling:** Support the mental and emotional health of our students so they can focus on their academic life.

Ensure students’ basic needs are met

Sacramento State believes that no student should have to worry about their basic needs being met or suffer from food insecurity

By giving to On the Rise, you have the power to positively influence Sacramento State students:

**Dewey Cotton:** The power of scholarships

Student-athlete and criminal justice major Dewey Cotton is living his dreams, playing college football like his father, pursuing a career in the Stockton Police Department, and being an inspiration to his nine brothers and sisters—all thanks to a scholarship.

“What I have learned at Sac State has helped me step outside of my comfort zone and become a better person. It has been truly life changing, and my brothers and sisters see my success. I love Sac State! You can feel the love when you walk across campus. Coming to Sac State is probably the best decision I ever made.”

**Lillian Murphy:** Advancing student research

Inspired by her mother’s health struggles, molecular and cellular biology graduate Lillian Murphy has committed herself to pursuing advanced research on neurodevelopmental disorders. With the support of an undergraduate research award she has been able to focus her educational career on scientific research.

“The financial support I got to do research has been a big part of my life. Anytime someone can help a Sac State student, it allows that student to focus on doing well in their classes instead of worrying about loans or trying to work odd jobs while going to school. It’s definitely worth it.”

**Tranh Pham:** Embracing student diversity

As a Vietnamese refugee growing up in Kansas, Tranh Pham often felt that she didn’t fit in. It’s why she is grateful for the Sacramento State community, where she feels accepted as she is—a nontraditional, first-generation graduate student who identifies as Queer.

“If we want to give everyone a chance to access higher education and achieve the American dream, we have to support student centers like the ones at Sac State. They equalize the educational experience. They help students of color and of low-economic status. Different gender identities and different races all have access to the same right to knowledge, so they can be part of this great nation. They help affirm that every student belongs.”

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while they are pursuing their college degree. Currently, gifts to the President’s Circle and programs within Student Affairs are used to support student-centered programs that have an immediate and direct impact. Among them:

- **Associated Students, Inc. (ASI) Food Pantry:** Provides food and basic necessities to Sacramento State students with financial hardships or food insecurity, at no cost.
- **Student Emergency Grant:** Assists students who experience a financial emergency or unanticipated expense causing short-term financial hardship that requires immediate attention to keep a student in college.
- **Student Emergency Housing:** A program that provides short-term housing assistance to students who are unexpectedly displaced from their homes.
- **Financial Wellness:** A program that provides students with no-cost, confidential one-on-one sessions on money management so they can be empowered to exercise better spending and saving habits for sound financial wellness.

Support the entire student through their college experience

At Sacramento State, we believe our strength as a university lies in the diversity of our community. To celebrate and embrace this diversity, we must also recognize that many members of our community have a variety of life experiences surrounding or leading up to their pursuit of a college education. As such, we as an institution are committed to building centers and systems that help students feel accepted as they are so they can thrive during their educational pursuits.

Initiatives include:

- **College Assistance Migrant Program:** A program designed to help students from migrant and seasonal farmworker backgrounds succeed at Sacramento State.
- **Martin Luther King Jr. Scholars Program:** A central hub for the exploration of African American heritage and culture that offers opportunities for engagement in leadership development, mentorship, and community advocacy.
- **Guardian Scholars Program:** A program focused on helping former foster youth as they obtain a college degree.
- **PRIDE Center:** A student center that is committed to creating a campus environment that is open, safe, and supportive of student diversity in the areas of sexual orientation and gender identity/expression.
- **Veterans Success Center:** This program is focused on assisting those who served our country through military service obtain their college degree.
- **“Family Room” Study Spaces in the University Library:** For students who have children, these spaces provide a safe, family-friendly place to study.
- **Educational Equity Programs:** Sacramento State has numerous other programs that are focused on eliminating the equity gap, especially for historically underserved members of our community.

As a donor to *On the Rise*, you have the power to positively influence thousands of lives for generations to come.