ON THE RISE
THE CAMPAIGN FOR SACRAMENTO STATE

IMPACT REPORT

SACRAMENTO STATE
Every day we come to campus, we do so with a firm belief that this is where the future begins — for students, for knowledge, and for the community.

Each comprised the three pillars of On the Rise: The Campaign for Sacramento State and, with your support, allowed us to provide the foundation for a student-centric academic experience, expand knowledge with new and engaging learning environments, and create enrichment opportunities for the Sacramento region.

You believe in Sacramento State and our ambition to prepare future generations to lead. You have created leaders, made the dreams of visionaries a reality, and strengthened our communities.

Thank you.

For your contributions.

For meeting our ambitions.

For believing in Sacramento State.

Together, we set out to change lives. Today, their futures are on the rise.

Total Donors

15,357

Total Raised

$238,978,448

106% OF $225M GOAL
For the Leaders of Tomorrow

Inspired by the work of his father in the Thai refugee camp where he was born, Chi Meng Vang ’23 (Criminal Justice) aspires one day to become a defense attorney or work with the FBI. Along the way, he has become a leader among his peers.

As a freshman, he had to balance school with work to help support his family — a situation that almost ended his college career. Instead of dropping out, he asked for help during his second semester and secured a position with the Student Academic Success & Educational Equity Program, which allowed him to focus on his education. Today, he gives his time to three different organizations on campus, including serving as president of the Hmong University Student Association and as a youth mentor at local high schools.

Vang is a leader on the rise.

“I asked for help my second semester and that motivated me to work hard and focus on my education. I got involved and became a leader helping other students to gain knowledge. I wouldn’t be who I am today without Sac State.”

—Chi Meng Vang ’23
“Being named as a ‘Mars Generation 24 Under 24’ was a huge honor, basically saying all my hard work paid off. It just felt so good, and I really tried to use that recognition to show other people, ‘Hey, this is what I did. You can do it too.’”

—Elizabeth Gabler ’19

For Visionaries Reaching for the Stars

The parents of Elizabeth Gabler ’19 (Physics and Astronomy) have a picture of her at four-years-old looking through a telescope to Mars. Today, she is knocking down barriers for future scientists while also chasing down her dream of being part of the team that lands humans on Mars.

Gabler is considered the youngest planetary defender by NASA and was named to its “Mars Generation 24 Under 24 Leaders & Innovators in STEAM” list in 2020. She is one of the first employees of the Ernest E. Tschannen Science Complex where she gets visitors excited about science, in part to pay it forward after a mentor changed her life by inviting her to see if she had an interest in it. Also, in her role at the UC Davis McClellan Nuclear Research Center, she celebrates her contributions to the team that successfully altered the trajectory of an asteroid.

Gabler is a leader on the rise.

1,550 Sac State students who attended an astronomy class in the planetarium

14,700 K-12 students who have visited the Ernest E. Tschannen Science Complex during a field trip

17,000 Community members who attended a public show at the planetarium
For Experts Advancing Progress

After devastating wildfires impacted a 20-acre wetland habitat known as Bushy Lake near Cal Expo, Professor Michelle Stevens has led a series of teams to restore the refuge that is home to various species. Supported by an Anchor Grant from the University, her efforts provide high-impact learning opportunities for students and, in turn, a future for the creatures that call Bushy Lake home.

Together with Sacramento County and the California Wildlife Conservation Board, Stevens plans to launch an awareness campaign to educate the community on the importance of places like Bushy Lake. Her work with students is not going unnoticed. In 2021, the Environmental Council of Sacramento recognized her as their Environmentalist of the Year. At the same time, her student, Moiz Mir ’19 (Environmental Studies), received their Early Career Environmentalist award.

Professor Stevens is a leader on the rise.

“It’s pure joy to work with my students in the field. I can’t think of anything better.”

—Professor Michelle Stevens
Campaign by the Numbers

TOTAL RAISED
106% OF $225M GOAL
$238,978,448

Duration
July 1, 2015-
June 30, 2022

Campaign
Goal
$225M

Achieved in
Advance
1 Year
4 Months

GREATEST FUNDED INITIATIVES
AND SUPPORT

$54.4M+
$6M
Dale and Katy
Carlsen Center
for Innovation &
Entrepreneurship

$9M
Ernest E. Tschannen
Science Complex

$27.4M
Sacramento State
Placer Center

$12M+
Scholarships

TOTAL DONORS
15,357

Alumni
8,025*

Community Members
4,305

Faculty/Staff
913
(current/former)

Associations
866

Parents
692
(current/past)

Supporting
Organizations
196

Foundations
181

Estates
96

Trusts
83

* Includes non-degreed alumni.

GIFT HIGHLIGHTS

Cash
$49.2M

Bequests
(Expectancies and realized)
$50.7M
Visionary Givers

Each Individual Donor
Since 2015, we have welcomed new and familiar faces to support our vision for the future of Sacramento State and everyone who considers themselves a part of the Hornet family. We counted every dollar, and every dollar continues to make an impact for students, knowledge, and our communities.

Shattuck Family
In 2019, Antonio T. Bly became the Peter H. Shattuck Chair in Colonial American History with a gift from Elizabeth H. Shattuck in memory of her late husband, Peter. The endowment provides for intellectual discourse and scholarship among professional historians and students.

“Peter cared very much about each of his students,” Elizabeth Shattuck said. “He cared about teaching, he cared about his subject, and Dr. Bly clearly shares all those essentials with Peter, which is why I’m so delighted he’s here.”

Hazel Cramer
In 2019, the late Hazel Cramer provided a gift that established an endowed chair in the Department of Public Policy and Administration. The Hazel Cramer Endowed Chair allows us to expand the range and quality of offerings for students and promote the reputation of Sacramento State as an anchor university.

“I understand that students often have obstacles that get in the way of completing their education,” Cramer said, “I wanted to be able to help.”

Rekhi Singh ’88
In 2021, Meliksah Demir became the Rekhi Singh Endowed Professor of Happiness at Sacramento State. Alumnus Rekhi Singh made a gift to establish the first endowed professorship that promotes happiness through academic research, curriculum development, partnerships across the campus, and other activities.

“It’s important to teach students the science of happiness so they can be more successful,” Singh said. “Happy people are more successful than the other way around.”
Alumni Support from Across the Nation

People from nearly every county in California supported the campaign.

California Counties

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*Gifts of $5 or more
Thank you

At the start of On the Rise, we knew we wanted to take Sacramento State to new heights, to create new possibilities and, with you, we did.

Generations of Hornets intent on changing their lives, the upward mobility of their families, and the future of their communities will experience success because of your generosity. They will arrive on our campus knowing they are here to carry on the legacy you built — a legacy that will persist for Sacramento and all of California.

Robert S. Nelsen  
President  
Sacramento State

Lisa Cardoza  
Vice President,  
University Advancement  
Sacramento State

Holly Tiche ’89  
Chair, Sacramento State  
University Foundation  
Board of Directors

We gratefully acknowledge the following individuals for their leadership roles in leading On the Rise: The Campaign for Sacramento State.

CAMPAIGN CHAIRS

Garry Maisel ’80  
CEO  
Western Health Advantage

Lester Holt  
Anchor  
NBC Nightly News

FOUNDATION BOARD CHAIRS

Pam Stewart  
Past Chair, 2013-2019  
University Foundation at Sacramento State

Tina Treis ’80  
Past Chair, 2019-2022  
University Foundation at Sacramento State
Campaign Points of Pride

Dale & Katy Carlsen Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship

Poppysaurus Sculpture Reveal

Three-time Big Sky Conference Football Champions
Ernest E. Tschannen Science Complex Grand Opening

ASI Pop-up Food Pantry

Placer One Groundbreaking