



Florida Atlantic University Foundation, Inc.

ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT

FY2024



MESSAGE FROM THE FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION, INC.

Dear friends,

Since its inception, **Florida Atlantic University** has benefited from incredible generosity and philanthropy from our community. In 1961, community leaders, led by Tom Fleming and Charles Schmidt, turned the dream of a public university into a reality. More than 60 years later, **Florida Atlantic** has enriched so many lives, especially the more than 208,000 students who have passed through our doors and earned a degree.

This year, the Florida Atlantic University Foundation, Inc. raised more than \$70 million from more than 11,000 donors – the second largest fundraising year in the University’s history. **Florida Atlantic** experienced a 6% increase in donors over the previous year. This philanthropy continues to unleash extraordinary possibilities for our students, faculty and the greater community.

Additionally, the Florida Atlantic University Foundation marked a major milestone this year, reaching the half billion dollar mark as part of the University’s first comprehensive fundraising campaign in 20 years – **Transcend Tomorrow: The Campaign for Florida Atlantic University**. This campaign aims to raise \$600 million and is focused on meaningful ways to make a difference through scholarships and student success, health-related initiatives and research, and environmental programs.

In this year’s Annual Impact Report, you’ll read more about how donors are impacting students, faculty research, colleges and community programs. We hope you will be inspired by the incredible generosity and commitment of our friends in the community. Their support enables the university to expand scholarships, enhance programs and invest in cutting-edge research to drive innovation and progress.

As we forge ahead, **Florida Atlantic University** is anticipating and developing transformative solutions to create powerful and positive change that addresses tomorrow’s challenges today and shapes a world that benefits us all.

With gratitude,



David Green
Interim Vice President
Division of Institutional Advancement



Brian Poulin
Board Chair
Florida Atlantic Foundation



David L. Kian
Interim CEO
Florida Atlantic Foundation

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BY THE NUMBERS

FY2024 IMPACT

FY24 FUNDRAISING TOTAL

\$70.27M from 11,137 generous Donors, including 7,052 Alumni Donors

Representing a 6% increase in *donors* over the previous year

FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS

\$14,818,557

Foundation Scholarship Funds were Distributed to 2,823 Florida Atlantic Students

FAU FOUNDATION ENDOWMENT

\$295,130,515

Total Value of Florida Atlantic Foundation Endowment as of June 30, 2024

593 Endowed Funds

ALUMNI AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

More than

4,200 attendees at **180** Alumni and Community Engagement events
29 Alumni Networks with **188** Alumni volunteer leaders.

TRANSCEND TOMORROW: THE CAMPAIGN FOR FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY

\$518M+ raised of **\$600M** goal from **56,312** Generous Donors

FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY'S **TRANSCEND TOMORROW CAMPAIGN** SOARS PAST **HALF-BILLION DOLLAR MARK**



With the generosity of more than **56,000** donors, Florida Atlantic's comprehensive fundraising campaign – *Transcend Tomorrow: The Campaign for Florida Atlantic University* – raised more than **\$518** million toward its \$600 million goal.

Florida Atlantic's campaign seeks to transform our tomorrow by addressing some of South Florida's most critical needs. The University is committed to leading health-related initiatives and research; seeking innovative solutions to protect the environment; and fostering student success through scholarships that encourage limitless possibilities.

"Thank you to those who made impactful gifts to the campaign, helping us drive the University forward in its pursuit of excellence," said Florida Atlantic University President Stacy Volnick. "Our donors are creating opportunities for thousands of students to pursue their dreams and earn degrees that will transform their lives and communities."

Generous gifts towards the *Transcend Tomorrow* campaign have advanced academic and research excellence, sparked new discoveries, and equipped students with the skills and knowledge to become leaders in their field and tackle tomorrow's challenges. Together, we are poised to build a brighter future for Florida Atlantic and the communities we serve.

"Philanthropy is the lifeblood of our institution. It fuels innovation, supports scholarships, and drives transformative change," said David S. Green, interim vice president for Institutional Advancement. "Our donors have invested in Florida Atlantic's future and in the future of our region. Their generosity enables us to address significant challenges."

To learn how *Transcend Tomorrow* is creating waves of generational change or to give a gift, visit transcendtomorrow.fau.edu.

We remain eternally grateful to our transformational donors:

ELEANOR R. BALDWIN

BARBARA CAMPBELL AND
THE LATE BOBBY CAMPBELL

AVRON B. AND WENDY FOGELMAN

MICHELLE AND MICHAEL HAGERTY

THE LAPPIN FAMILY, AND
THE LEGACY FOUNDATION OF
PALM BEACH COUNTY

LET'S HAVE A SMILE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

CHRISTINE E. LYNN

THE HARRY T. MANGURIAN, JR. FOUNDATION

THE MARCUS FOUNDATION

DAVID J.S. AND LYNN NICHOLSON

THE SANDLER FAMILY, AND
THE HARVEY AND PHYLLIS
SANDLER FOUNDATION

BARB SCHMIDT AND DICK SCHMIDT,
AND THE SCHMIDT FAMILY FOUNDATION

SUSAN SMITH AND THE LATE PHIL SMITH

THE TAFT FOUNDATION

HOLLI ROCKWELL TRUBINSKY AND
JOSEPH TRUBINSKY

MARILYN WALLACH AND
THE LATE KURT WALLACH

ANN WOOD AND THE LATE JOHN WOOD



TRANSCEND
TOMORROW
THE CAMPAIGN FOR
FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY

The time is now.

Transcending our tomorrow starts today. Invest in a better future for our students, our University and the world. **Be a catalyst** for generations of positive change. Provide access and opportunity to promising students, comprehensive health care care to the community, and a healthier environment for all. It's time to make an impact. To change lives. And to rise to tomorrow's challenges. **All it takes is one gift.**



transcendtomorrow.fau.edu

▶ THE LEGACY OF **BOB LAPPIN AND THE PALM BEACH POPS** CONTINUES THROUGH **\$5 MILLION** GIFT

Florida Atlantic University has received a gift worth more than \$5 million from the Legacy Foundation of Palm Beach County, an extension of the Palm Beach Pops, to enhance its music programs and establish a legacy for the Palm Beach Pops and its founder and music director, Bob Lappin.

The gift includes a music library comprised of more than 1,600 titles and scores – many emanating from the Great American Songbook's revered composers – and adapted by the industry's most prestigious arrangers.

"For the past three decades, the Palm Beach Pops was an integral part of the performing cultural arts and music education of South Florida," said Jon Lappin, president and executive director of the Legacy Foundation of Palm Beach County/ Palm Beach Pops. "This music must be heard and taught, not only because of its rich American roots, but also because it is the result of the massive collaboration of so many musicians, supporters, county institutions, students, and of course, the unyielding pursuit of artistic excellence for more than 30 years. This donation preserves the legacy and extraordinary accomplishments of the maestro – my father, the late Bob Lappin – and the Palm Beach Pops."

"This donation preserves the legacy and *extraordinary* accomplishments of the maestro – my father, the late Bob Lappin – and the Palm Beach Pops."



Florida Atlantic's Department of Music within the Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters will establish the Bob Lappin and the Palm Beach Pops Music Legacy Endowment to fund scholarships, and other student financial aid to recruit and retain top music students. The support will bolster the Department of Music's successful degree programs in commercial music, music education, music performance, and conducting, which have produced Grammy-winning artists and producers and leading music executives.

Florida Atlantic will continue the Palm Beach Pops legacy of music education by expanding student outreach, allowing students to tour the university's music facilities and observe rehearsals and classes. Florida Atlantic also will host an annual legacy concert for students and the public, and a tribute to Lappin and the Palm Beach Pops.



► **THE MARCUS FOUNDATION AWARDS \$2 MILLION GRANT TO FLORIDA ATLANTIC LAB SCHOOLS**

Florida Atlantic University Laboratory Schools received a \$2 million grant from The Marcus Foundation to launch the Marcus Research and Innovation Center at the A.D. Henderson University School and FAU High School campus in Boca Raton. The Center will serve as a training ground for the schools' young students, preparing them to become innovators able to address the country's most pressing challenges.

With more than 12,000 square feet of research space, the labs in the Marcus Research and Innovation Center will focus on bioimaging, neuroscience, ocean science and conservation, along with a health care pipeline for teaching, high-performance computing, and rapid prototyping methods. Each will be equipped with top-tier research instruments not typically found in K-12 settings.

The Marcus Research and Innovation Center will house and expand the current programs at the FAU Laboratory Schools, which introduce students to research as early as kindergarten. To date, student participants have produced 78 student publications in peer-reviewed journals, six patents, and more than 1,500 citations worldwide.

In addition, the Marcus Research and Innovation Center will provide space to support the FAU Laboratory Schools' Stiles-Nicholson STEM Teacher Academy, where elementary, middle and high school instructors benefit from experiential professional learning opportunities, and the Cane Institute for Advanced Technologies, where lab school students chase their curiosity about real-world problems through the hard sciences.

"This generous grant will accelerate the transformational re-engineering of education already in progress at our lab schools," said Joel Herbst, Ed.D., superintendent of Florida Atlantic Laboratory Schools. "The Marcus Research and Innovation Center will serve as a blueprint for developing researchers and a globally competitive workforce, as well as train the school leaders and educators of tomorrow."



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▶ **CARL ANGUS DESANTIS FOUNDATION PROVIDES \$750,000 GRANT FOR ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE**



“Florida Atlantic’s *innovative* approach will take managing neurodegenerative disorders to new heights.”

The Charles E. Schmidt College of Medicine received a \$750,000 grant from the Carl Angus DeSantis Foundation to establish best practices for Alzheimer’s care and research. Committed to improving human health, the DeSantis Foundation aims to enhance awareness, caregiver support, early diagnosis, treatment, and research to revolutionize neurodegenerative disease care.

“This grant awarded to Florida Atlantic will help to propel research, patient care and community outreach for Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias, and continues Carl DeSantis’ incredible legacy of generosity and caring for others,” said Jeff Perlman, director of the Carl Angus DeSantis Foundation and executive vice president of CDS International Holdings, Inc. “Patients and their caregivers often encounter many challenges navigating this complex, chronic and costly disease. Florida Atlantic’s innovative approach will take managing neurodegenerative disorders to new heights.”

Florida Atlantic aims to meet community healthcare needs through collaborative education, research integration, and interprofessional practice. Accordingly, grant funds will help ensure patients and families receive multidisciplinary care and

resources. As part of this commitment, a nurse navigator, outreach coordinator and data scientist were onboarded to coordinate patient care and patient surveys. In addition, two endowed faculty positions—a clinical neurologist and a biomedical engineer—will be appointed to advance the study of neurodegenerative disorders.

The Clinical Neurosciences Department, also supported by the DeSantis grant, collaborates with Florida Atlantic’s Center for Brain Health and The Marcus Institute of Integrative Health. The primary focus is on precision medicine and evidence-based clinical services for Alzheimer’s disease care.

Carl DeSantis, the foundation’s founder, is recognized for his entrepreneurial impact in health, nutrition, and various industries, reflecting his legacy of generosity and care. This newest grant from his foundation propels Florida Atlantic’s efforts toward addressing Alzheimer’s disease to benefit millions worldwide.

▶ MATCHED GIFT LAUNCHES FIRST **STUDENT-MANAGED INVESTMENT FUND**



Florida Atlantic University's College of Business received a \$250,000 gift from Dan Davidowitz and Polen Capital Management, LLC ("Polen") matched by Florida Atlantic's Foundation to name The Polen Capital – Florida Atlantic University Foundation Student Investment Fund. The \$500,000 fund launched the University's first student-managed investment fund. By providing students with experiential training in investment portfolio management, the college can enhance student placement in competitive internships and permanent positions at large financial institutions.

"As a strong believer in empowering the next generation of financial leaders, we are thrilled to support the launch of this student-led investment fund," said Rachel Trock, chief people officer at Polen Capital. "I am confident that this partnership will nurture a new wave of skilled money managers and further strengthen Florida Atlantic's position as a leading business program."

The generous funding for this initiative helps solidify Florida Atlantic's College of Business among the exceptional business programs nationwide that offer students an opportunity to manage and administer a well-diversified portfolio.

"Through this matching gift, Florida Atlantic's Foundation is strengthening this public and private sector partnership, while creating greater opportunity for our business students," said Brian Poulin, chair of Florida Atlantic's Foundation Board.

A global investment powerhouse with \$64 billion in assets and more than 30 years of experience, Polen is dedicated to charitable giving, receiving the 2022 Best Philanthropic Initiative Award from With Intelligence. For nearly a decade, Polen has supported initiatives in the College of Business and the Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters, including service on the College of Business' advisory board.



"...we are thrilled to support the launch of this *student-led* investment fund."

▶ FLORIDA ATLANTIC'S THEATRE AND DANCE PROGRAMS RECEIVE SIGNIFICANT GIFTS IN SUPPORT OF **THEATRE LAB AND MUSICAL THEATRE**

Edith and Martin Stein were the first benefactors of Theatre Lab, Florida Atlantic University's professional resident theater company within the Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters. Today, the Stein name is indelibly linked to Theatre Lab in recognition of a significant gift from the Edith and Martin Stein Family Foundation in support of performances and arts education.

"Edith and Martin Stein have been steadfast supporters of Theatre Lab since its inception. Their generosity has helped to make Theatre Lab an integral platform and major influence on the American theater," said Florida Atlantic University President Stacy Volnick. "We sincerely appreciate this new gift from the Edith and Martin Stein Family Foundation, and we are proud that everyone who enters Theatre Lab, whether for a performance, rehearsal, or workshop, will know the Steins helped make it possible."

The Foundation's gift creates an endowment to provide perpetual support to sustain Theatre Lab as a distinctive cultural resource for Florida Atlantic students, area grade school students, community patrons, regional actors, and national playwrights. Theatre Lab will continue to strengthen its national reputation as a creative incubator focused on the development of new work in American theater thanks to the Stein's generosity.



"It brings me such *joy* to know that I can have an impact on someone else's life and future."

Another patron of theatre arts, Beth K. Schwartz, has made an estate pledge to establish a scholarship for theatre majors – especially those with a fondness like herself for musical theatre.

A first-generation Florida Atlantic graduate, she credits a former manager and mentor with helping her earn her business degree and expanding her love of live theater. She is an avid supporter of several South Florida theatre companies and serves on the Dean's Advisory Board for the College of Arts and Letters.

"My life has been blessed in so many ways for which I am sincerely grateful ... I want nothing more than to pay it forward to others," she said. "It brings me such joy to know that I can have an impact on someone else's life and future. And there's nothing better than being alive to meet those students who are awarded my scholarships and to watch their futures take flight."



▶ SIGNIFICANT **GIFT** ESTABLISHES THE **CRAIG AND BARBARA WEINER HOLOCAUST MUSEUM OF SOUTH FLORIDA**

The Craig and Barbara Weiner Holocaust Museum of South Florida will become a major feature of the Kurt and Marilyn Wallach Holocaust and Jewish Studies Building on Florida Atlantic University's Boca Raton campus, thanks to a significant gift from the Weiners.

The 2,000-square-foot space will display items from the Weiner's substantial collection of authentic artifacts from the Holocaust, which were part of the gift to Florida Atlantic. It will become an integral part of the Holocaust and Jewish studies, human rights education and leadership training programs of the Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters.

"The museum will be a legacy to the Weiners' tireless work in educating future generations about the importance of standing up against all forms of hate, prejudice and bigotry through Holocaust education," said Michael Horswell, Ph.D., dean of the Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters. "The museum will also be a distinctive addition to the Wallach building's prominence as an educational and cultural destination."

As part of the gift, Florida Atlantic will hire a museum director to oversee the museum, conduct tours, and develop Holocaust education programs for middle and high school students. The museum will contribute substantially to the university's established community outreach

through the Arthur and Emalie Gutterman Family Center for Holocaust and Human Rights Education (CHHRE). The CHHRE has worked with school district professionals and support staff to implement Florida's statute requiring instruction of the Holocaust.

"Barbara and I are 100 percent steadfastly committed to teaching as many young people as possible about the dangers of hate, prejudice and bigotry," said Craig Weiner. "This is our way of giving back to this amazing country. Our aim is to enhance and expand Holocaust education as much and as far as we are able to do as a family."

"The museum will also be a distinctive addition to the Wallach building's prominence as an *educational and cultural destination.*"



Building a Home *Away* from Home



honors current students and recent alumni who served as student leaders at Florida Atlantic.

Additionally, Florida Atlantic Alumni launched an innovative new online portal, the Florida Atlantic Alumni Portal, dedicated to connecting alumni across the world and streamlining communications. The online portal was one of many additions to enhancing the overall alumni experience and, specifically, the Alumni Association membership experience. This year, members received access to exclusive alumni-focused merchandise, such as hats, shirts, socks, special edition alumni paintings, and more.

Florida Atlantic Alumni also launched numerous alumni networks, totaling 29 across the country, tailored to locations, professions, interests and industries. These networks played a pivotal role in connecting alumni through events, networking initiatives and more.

The department also kept an eye on the future as it continued to grow its Student Alumni Association, which saw an uptick in members for a second consecutive year. Student Alumni Association members serve as ambassadors for many Florida Atlantic Alumni signature and professional events, and have a sub-set of students called the PrOWLers, who continue to passionately cheer on Owls at athletic contests.

The Florida Atlantic Alumni team is also intentionally investing time in consistent communications to enhance the alumni experience, such as the Florida Atlantic Alumni News, a monthly newsletter highlighting an alumnus making waves in the community or their industry, upcoming initiatives to get involved with, a specific network focus, and more. The team has also rolled out the Burrow Beat, a streamlined video released the first day of every month that briefly captures the biggest programs and initiatives happening with Florida Atlantic Alumni.

➤ For a second consecutive year, Florida Atlantic Alumni continued to enhance the alumni experience for Florida Atlantic graduates. This past year, the department made significant upgrades to the Marleen and Harold Forkas Alumni Center, emphasizing the building's role as a home away from home for Owls back to campus. The building received numerous aesthetic and technological enhancements, allowing for more dynamic hosting experiences.

The Marleen and Harold Forkas Alumni Center is home to many memorable alumni events, including football tailgates, watch parties, professional development and reunions. Additionally, the Forkas Alumni Center hosts signature events, such as the Majestic Owls Induction Ceremony, which celebrates graduates reaching their 50-year graduation milestone, and brought back the Parliament of OWLs (Older Wiser Leaders), which



Scholarship Success

Over the past year, Florida Atlantic Alumni and Community Engagement placed a strong focus on fundraising and distributing money for scholarships, leading to tremendous strides in supporting student success. During this fiscal year, more than \$72,000 in scholarship money was distributed to deserving students, representing the largest award in Florida Atlantic Alumni history. Of the students who received scholarship assistance, 40% of those were first-generation college students, opening the door for a new generation of Owls to soar.

One of the key Alumni and Community Engagement events was Florida Atlantic Alumni's Sweethearts Dinner, a Valentine's themed event in February that celebrates Florida Atlantic couples. As part of the dinner, Florida Atlantic Alumni introduced a fundraising component, leading to more than \$32,000 raised for scholarship support.

This year, Florida Atlantic alum Phil Parker '73, who was inducted into the Florida Atlantic Alumni Hall of Fame in April, pledged \$25,500 to create the Majestic Owls Endowed Scholarship Fund, which provides scholarship support for students with demonstrated financial need. The fund is supported by the university's Majestic Owls Society, which is comprised of alumni who have reached their 50-year graduation anniversary.

Additionally, the Florida Atlantic Alumni Association played a key role in scholarship support, helping champion the effort through various endeavors. Alumni Association Board Director David Matte '89 stepped up with a \$25,000 pledge to create the David W. Matte Scholarship to provide assistance for students in the College of Business.

"Being a first-generation college student ... it can sometimes make it a little bit difficult to afford college," said Marissa Lippinkhof, who received scholarship support this year. "I would not have been able to get my degree without this scholarship."

For more information on Florida Atlantic Alumni scholarship initiatives or to give a gift, visit faualumni.org/alumni-scholarships.



“ Being a *first-generation* college student...it can sometimes make it a little bit difficult to afford college,” said Marissa Lippinkhof. “I would not have been able to get my degree *without* this scholarship.” ”

Giving Day Donors Rally to *Support* Students, Research, and the Community



➤ During **Giving Day 2023**, more than a thousand donors rallied together to support the first **Florida Atlantic Giving Day**. **Giving Day** is a one-day event that encourages Florida Atlantic friends, family, and alumni to make one-time donations of all sizes to bolster support for the area of their choosing.

The funds raised during **Giving Day** were allocated to various initiatives across the university, including scholarships, student support, research projects, and more.

The event was marked by numerous activities that kept the community engaged and motivated. From social media challenges to donor thank-you events, participants enjoyed a day filled with excitement and a shared purpose.

The success of **Giving Day** sets a promising precedent for future years as the Florida Atlantic community unites in support of the university's mission and commitment to excellence.





Florida Atlantic University

Expanding Access and Opportunity to Promising Students

At Florida Atlantic, there are more than 30,000 students pursuing degrees in 170+ courses of study across six South Florida campuses. More than a third of Florida Atlantic's students are the first in their families to obtain a college degree. Through scholarships that expand opportunity, our students are propelled further than they dreamed possible.

By investing in scholarships, you are helping to empower promising students while also supporting the talent pipeline for South Florida employers, which strengthens our economy and our community.

► **For more information and to make your contribution, visit transcendtomorrow.fau.edu.**



Scan QR Code
to make a gift

TRANSCEND
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THE CAMPAIGN FOR
FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY



ABOUT THE FOUNDATION

The **Florida Atlantic University Foundation, Inc.** creates opportunity through philanthropy to support Florida Atlantic's students, faculty and programs. As a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization, the Foundation connects private philanthropy with opportunities to advance the University's strategic mission and plan. Operating under the auspices of the Division of Institutional Advancement, the Foundation also serves as a fiduciary, caring for and distributing gifts in accordance with our donors' wishes.



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