HELP THEM SET THE WORLD ALIGHT

At Kent State, we have a calling to continuously shine a light on ideas that make the world better – radiating brilliance around the globe, one Flash after another. As our potential and momentum continue to build, there is an undeniable strength in our unified purpose and an unstoppable power in our kindness. We have always driven forward with purpose. Now it’s time to illuminate the world, sparking the imagination and support of those who will go on to create an even more meaningful future.
Prioritizing Student Success

Kent State is attracting growing numbers of top students from across the country and around the globe. On our eight campuses, with a footprint the size of the state of Connecticut, we inspire the brightest innovators, researchers, athletes, artists and makers. We are committed to providing access to a Kent State education for students aspiring to earn a degree, regardless of their financial situation.

The new Flashes Go Further Scholarship Program offers aid for up to four years to eligible students with the greatest financial need, and it ensures these students can graduate free of debt from tuition, general fees and books. This program offers more aid than other Ohio public institutions and builds on the university’s national award-winning success in increased graduation rates. The university has committed millions in scholarships to be awarded annually to assure that our students not only enroll, but also cross the finish line to graduation.

Providing a path to earning a degree cannot be accomplished with university funding alone. By pairing philanthropic support with institutional funds, we can better address the array of financial needs that impact our diverse student body. Raising funds to align with scholarship needs is our first priority at Kent State, and that focus ensures we support our students from the day they receive their letter of acceptance to the day they receive their diploma. With scholarships, we can assist our students as they pursue their degrees, enhancing their experiences and increasing their chances of success.

As state funding continues to decrease, philanthropic support has never been more critical to attracting and retaining talented students from the region, the state and throughout the nation.

We aim to raise $100 million in support of student success programs and scholarships for students with financial need, high-achieving students and students who desire to engage in high-impact experiences.
ENSURING ACCESS
Our purpose is to help students find theirs so they can cultivate their talents and create a brighter tomorrow. We do this by offering education and opportunity for those who need it most, including those who come from historically excluded populations, have a limited-income household or are the first in their families to attend college. Philanthropic support allows us to address this wide array of needs, ensuring students have access to a Kent State education regardless of their financial situation.

Additionally, Kent State University has been designated as a First-gen Forward Institution by the Center for First-generation Student Success for its commitment to improving the experiences and advancing the outcomes of those who are first in their families to attend college. In fact, we welcomed more than 3,000 first-generation freshmen in the class of 2024.

KSU Scholarship Fund
We are committed to ensuring our students have the education, experiences and support they need to graduate and to live successful, meaningful lives. Philanthropic gifts to the KSU Scholarship Fund provide much-needed financial support for students from every campus and every degree field on their journey to earning a Kent State diploma.

Rising Scholars
Through our Rising Scholars Program – one program on each regional campus – Kent State partners with local communities to create a support system that prepares promising youth for life after high school. If we all step up and commit to uncovering, nurturing and cultivating these young people with untapped potential, we can shine a light on this underserved population to transform their communities and the world around them.

The Rising Scholars Program combines mentoring with assistance from local communities and businesses to provide support for students beginning in seventh grade. The program allows them to maximize their all-important high school years and focus on making well-informed career choices after graduation.

REWARDING ACHIEVEMENT
Many of our students have remarkable achievements in academics, athletics, the arts and more. By rewarding their accomplishments, we recognize the time and commitment they have already invested and encourage them to continue to excel. When they succeed, all of Kent State is propelled forward.

Honors Scholarships
Kent State University’s honors program is one of the oldest in the country. Honors students represent the best and brightest in majors from every college within the university. The Honors College welcomed a record 572 freshmen in 2019, and this trend is expected to continue in coming years. Supporting our high-achieving students is the top priority for the Honors College.

Athletics Scholarships
Kent State’s 19 varsity programs are comprised of more than 400 student-athletes who are keenly focused on earning success both academically and athletically. In fact, the department GPA has been above 3.0 for 19 straight semesters. Multiple programs are nationally ranked, and we are nationally recognized for the exemplary character, achievements and civic contributions of our student-athletes. Philanthropy helps provide the annual $6.1 million in scholarships that support our talented student-athletes.

Founders Scholarships
Founders Scholarships are prestigious, merit-based scholarships that reward academic achievement during the admissions process, making a vital impact in recruitment. These scholarships provide renewable, annual support for high-achieving, incoming freshmen. Students admitted to Kent State University with a Founders Scholarship are guaranteed funding for four years as long as they maintain their high academic standing. Individual awards vary in amount, but all provide substantial support.

Talent-Based Scholarships
A transformative education in the arts develops talented and capable contributors to the creative fields, while supporting the many ways in which the arts impact civic life, personal growth and career development. Support for talent-based scholarships allows Kent State to reward the most talented artists and performers from a variety of backgrounds.

Our performing and creative artists not only enrich the campus, they also provide opportunities for the greater community to experience high-quality performances, art shows and creative ventures. By recruiting and retaining the highest caliber creative talent, we are continuing to enhance a long tradition of excellence in the arts at Kent State.
ENHANCING EXPERIENCES

We encourage students to move beyond their comfort zones and experience learning and living without academic and demographic boundaries. We offer our students transformational opportunities to learn throughout the world, participate in innovative research and develop leadership skills that will serve them in their personal and professional lives.

Global Education

We believe every student should have the chance to receive a global education. We are committed to breaking down financial barriers and providing access to opportunities beyond their typical classrooms. When Kent State students immerse themselves in places like Florence, New York, Ghana and Paris, they return with new perspectives and a sense of purpose that will illuminate the world. We want every KSU student to participate in a global education experience.

Community Engaged Learning

Organized service projects bring learning out of the classroom while making a tangible impact. These experiences not only build skills but also prepare students to become citizens who contribute meaningfully to their communities. Alternative Break experiences expose students to social justice and cultural issues through direct service, community engagement and cultural activities during semester breaks.

SURE Program

The Summer Undergraduate Research Experience (SURE) program funds promising undergraduate students from any major for eight weeks during the summer as they engage in faculty-supervised research. SURE scholars learn critical thinking skills and creative problem-solving skills valued by employers. SURE students work directly with a faculty mentor on a research project to enhance learning and gain valuable experience to clarify career and educational goals. This program prepares them for graduate school or employment where they will stand out from the competition.

FOSTERING COMPLETION

At Kent State, we believe every Golden Flash has a spark within that leads to a brighter future for all. Philanthropic gifts ensure that we can support our students on their unique journey to earning a degree – regardless of the obstacles they encounter along the way. When you foster completion, you empower our students to achieve their dreams and illuminate the world, even if hardships threaten to derail their plans.

Last Dollar Scholarship

The Last Dollar Scholarship provides aid to students whose college education is near completion, but who are at risk due to unexpected circumstances that have left them without other financial options. There is a Last Dollar Scholarship Fund available for students at each of our campuses.

KSU Emergency Grant Fund

Created at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, the KSU Emergency Grant Fund provides a safety net for students who encounter an unexpected crisis – such as illness, loss of job or death of a family member – that severely impacts them and their financial situation. Students may use funds for rent, utilities, groceries or other necessities to help them stay enrolled.

Academic Advantage Program

The Academic Advantage program assists students with remaining on track toward graduation and preparing for a future career by building a support network of peers and professional staff. The experience includes academic support, professional and personal development, and coaching.

CARES Center

The CARES (Crisis, Advocacy, Resources, Education and Support) Center supports students who have challenges with their basic needs. The center helps students who are experiencing food insecurity, homelessness, financial insecurity and needs related to mental well-being. Connecting students to both on- and off-campus resources, the CARES Center supports all students within the Kent campus community.
During the past few decades, Kent State has gone from an academic, athletic and economic driver in Northeast Ohio to a thought-starter, fierce competitor and innovation leader at the national and international levels. Research and programmatic additions to the university – like the Brain Health Research Institute and the Design Innovation Initiative – have elevated our reputation and cemented our place on the world stage. We have an opportunity to keep evolving and to change the way people think, learn, compete and teach.
BRAIN HEALTH RESEARCH INSTITUTE

The Brain Health Research Institute (BHRI) is a collaborative effort that taps passionate faculty members from across the university – not just in science-based departments, but also in social sciences, the arts and humanities – to bring together their unique strengths as they collaborate to solve brain-related challenges. The institute is the epicenter of innovative training for undergraduate students, graduate students and postdoctoral fellows in an environment that combines hands-on access, mentorship, resources and opportunities.

DESIGN INNOVATION INITIATIVE

The Design Innovation Initiative (DI) brings together students, faculty and experts from multiple disciplines to thoughtfully address technology and society through design and innovation strategies. DI supports and inspires students to become creative, intersectional problem-solvers who are fearless collaborators in the face of complex problems. This is accomplished through coursework and co-curricular projects, competitions, hackathons and grand challenges as part of a “challenge-based innovation” strategy.

INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS

Kent State Athletics’ vision is to be a nationally recognized, comprehensive athletics program that inspires communities and transforms lives. The landscape of Division I intercollegiate athletics is changing constantly, and the need for resources is at an all-time high. Philanthropy is integral to our innovative mindset in resource management, with a focus on sustainability and sound financial stewardship. In order for Kent State to become the nationally distinct university described in our strategic plan, it is imperative that we have the resources to focus on our mission to graduate student-athletes who are boldly prepared for life after sport, and win championships. Our goal is to increase our number of athletics endowments by 20 percent.

ENDOWING EMPLOYEE TALENT

Great universities have great employees. Kent State’s rising stature among the nation’s best public research universities depends on the success and achievements of our faculty and staff. To elevate and support employee talent, we will double the number of endowed chairs, professorships and other positions across our campuses. An endowment provides perpetual support for our most distinguished employees. This allows them to advance their work in special ways, including support for graduate and postdoctoral students, research, travel, equipment purchases and creative pursuits.
Our goal is to be a magnet for talented students who want to change the world and a flagship for faculty and staff who have the talent to lead such a bold initiative. To achieve this, our physical spaces must match the innovative and transformative experiences taking place across our educational system.

New and updated facilities for the College of Business Administration and College of Aeronautics and Engineering will lay the foundation for a continuous expansion of what is possible when our physical spaces accurately reflect our stellar programs.
COLLEGE OF AERONAUTICS AND ENGINEERING

The College of Aeronautics and Engineering is producing agents of change. Passionate students experience immersive instruction that prepares them to compete in a rapidly changing global economy. Our research leverages the unique synergy of aeronautics and engineering to enable innovative engineered systems for a smarter, more secure and sustainable future. To accommodate increased enrollment we must expand our physical spaces.

An addition to the existing Aeronautics and Engineering Building will provide 80 percent more space to accommodate the engineering program’s dramatic growth in student enrollment, indicated by a 52 percent increase in the fall 2019 incoming class. The two-story atrium will serve as a community collaboration space for our students as well as a venue for the college’s events and gatherings. This space will also be utilized for the operations program, providing a space to conduct research and fly indoors year-round.

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Kent State’s College of Business Administration is the home for global business leaders who will transform their future industries across every aspect of society. We have been educating business students for more than 80 years, and we are one of Ohio’s largest business colleges, with more than 3,700 business students across Kent State campuses and another 4,700 non-business students enrolled in our courses. We have experienced double-digit enrollment gains since 2010, and our faculty are world-class. Our students are increasingly global, representing more than 60 countries around the world, and our methods have become more collaborative than ever – highlighting a need for a larger, tech-forward, more welcoming space on campus.

The new, innovative building will provide needed space for the college’s administrative offices, classrooms, outreach and research centers. Among the primary outcomes is the opportunity to better practice “The New Pedagogy” – teaching and learning that emphasize collaborative, team-based problem solving – the type of engaged, participatory learning practiced in the world’s best businesses.
Forever Brighter is the most ambitious fundraising campaign in the history of Kent State University with a goal of raising $350 million. This will create a transformational change for our university and our students. And that takes all of us...

Because at Kent State University, what sets us apart is how we come together.