Dream 125: The Campaign for Weber State

We popped the balloons, sang “Happy Birthday” and served the cake. Now it’s time to make Weber State’s 125th anniversary truly special by contributing to the fundraising campaign that will help support the university for the next 125 years.

The spirit of giving has permeated the university for a century and a quarter. “Weber State: A Centennial History” by Richard Sadler describes how funds for the original Moench Building, constructed in 1891, came partly from Weber State Board of Education members who mortgaged their homes to secure financing. It was through “persistent efforts” of board members “that the money owed for the Academy was collected in generally small amounts over a ‘drawn out’ period of time.”

Today, the university requires the same generosity. Kyle Braithwaite, 2011-12 student body president and now a development director responsible for faculty and staff giving, said he sees constant acts of generosity.

“Giving back should be more about the effect of the gift and less about the amount,” Braithwaite said. “We all give a lot of our time, energy and resources in support of Weber State University, but we now can give financial support to an institution that has launched so many individual’s dreams.”


The university’s goal is to raise $125 million by June 2016. In announcing the public phase of the campaign, the president and the Development Office revealed the university already has received $101 million in gifts and pledges since the campaign’s quiet phase began in 2008.

As of December 2013, 10,690 individuals and organizations had contributed to the campaign. The university anticipates a 20 percent increase in the number of $1,000 donations this fiscal year. To date, 17 donors have made gifts or pledges of $1 million or more to the campaign.

According to Sadler’s book, in the early days of what was then Weber Stake Academy, donors helped finance buildings and books. In 1903, faculty began to contribute one half of 1 percent of their annual salaries “to assist ‘gifted and worthy’ young people to receive the benefits of higher education.”

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Teachers were also able to apply to use those funds for “the benefits of an education at home or abroad.”

Proceeds from the Dream 125 campaign will address the same key areas: providing opportunity for students through scholarships and unique learning experiences; advancing knowledge by equipping faculty and staff with the tools and training needed to stay at the forefront of their disciplines; and enhancing campus resources by investing in state-of-the-art facilities and technologies.

“One-hundred-and-twenty-five years is a perfect opportunity to look back on our history and celebrate all the great things we’ve accomplished for so many students and graduates,” said WSU president Charles Wight. “It’s also a chance to look ahead. The Dream 125 campaign will secure a bright future for our students.”

To give to the Dream 125 campaign, visit weber.edu/dream125 or contact the development office at 801-626-7628.

A Giving Life

The corridor of offices in the Department of Business Administration is bustling on a Tuesday morning early spring semester. Some students are discussing assignments with their professors; others are sitting anxiously in the hallway, heads in textbooks, anticipating the arrival of their instructors. The door to office 242 is closed. To those familiar with its long-time occupant, business administration professor Brian Davis, that still seems strange because, for so very long, that door was almost always open to students. Brian passed away Nov. 29, 2013, at the age of 59. He had struggled with his health for several years after contracting a serious illness in Thailand. His condition worsened last year, so much so that he could no longer teach face to face, but he continued to teach online. That’s not surprising, as Brian — a Brady Presidential Distinguished Professor and Crystal Crest Master Teacher, just two of many honors — was known as someone who cared deeply for his students.

In his eulogy to his twin brother, Bruce Davis recalled that Brian, in his final moments, asked his wife, Debbie, to make sure his students turned in their final case of the semester. “For a professor who was so devoted to his students, it is no surprise that his final thoughts and words would be of them,” said Bruce, who is vice provost and dean of Continuing Education at WSU. It’s also not surprising that in his 25 years at Weber State Brian quietly gave more than $10,000 toward scholarships. An advocate of interfaith understanding, he also helped support WSU’s Center for Religion and Ethics. Additionally, Brian donated a portion of his salary to start the United Nations Global Compact Initiative at WSU.

“Brian was the consummate professor,” said Jeff Steagall, dean of the John B. Goddard School of Business & Economics. “Not only was he a campus leader, one of our finest teachers and a top-notch scholar, but he also understood the importance of providing financial support to Weber State. Brian’s generosity allowed many of our students to participate in special learning activities that would otherwise have been out of their financial reach.”
Purchasing Tip

The Purchasing Office strongly encourages department chairs and supervisors to take the time each month to review and reconcile all of their department’s p-card statements. Their knowledge of appropriate purchases for business operations is the first line of defense against fraud and misuse.

Important items to verify when reviewing p-card statements:

1. A backup document exists for every charge that appears on the statement.
2. Itemized receipts have been obtained.
3. No sales tax has been charged on purchases from within the state of Utah.
4. The WSU business purpose for each charge has been documented.

On the Move/Promoted

Tiffany Bennett, Nursing
Casey Bullock, Registrar’s Office
Seth Cawley, University Police
Nicola Corbin, Communication
Mary Jane DuPont, Financial Aid Office
Michelle Gifford, Financial Aid Office
Clifford Hamilton, University Police

Paul Hayes, Academic Affairs
Cade Lubeck, Academic Affairs
Aaron Newman, Student Involvement
Jessica Oyer, Research Support Services
Bicknell Robbins, Facilities Management
Tanya Scott, Registrar’s Office

Retired

Alice Allred, Developmental Math
Harold Elliot, Geography
Alan Livingston, Enterprise Business Computing
Kathy May, Business Administration
Ava Painter, Office of Sponsored Projects

Color Palette

Here at Weber, we all bleed purple. But do you know which purple?

WSU has a standard color palette that is used in designing official university materials, whether in print, online or video.

“Wildcat Purple” is also known as Pantone 2617. That and “University Gray” (Pantone 405) are our primary colors. Four other shades of purple have been selected as complements to the primary colors.

While it may sound as though everything must be all purple, all the time, this isn’t the case: we have a set of secondary colors — blues, greens, reds, browns, oranges and yellows — that all work well as accents to Wildcat Purple. If you are part of an academic college, you may have a designated college color that’s used in your materials.

Visit weber.edu/brand/colorpalette.html to see the complete palette.
Old Meets New at Weber State Downtown

Written by: Cozette Jenkins

In the final seconds before the ribbon cutting Jan. 7, employees of the Weber State Downtown Campus Store stabilized merchandise display tables made from Union Pacific Railroad carts nearly as old as the university itself.

“It was important to us that we capture the history of Ogden and preserve the historical integrity of the building, and then incorporate technology and product to give an ‘old meets new’ experience for customers in our store,” said Ben Taylor, Campus Store marketing manager.

At exactly 5 p.m., as part of WSU’s daylong birthday celebration, President Charles Wight cut the purple ribbon across the front door. Hundreds of members of the Ogden community flooded the new store.

The ground floor of Weber State Downtown houses the Campus Store and a café with gourmet drinks and pastries. The store features WSU merchandise, Weber Wear clothing, name-brand technology products and an Apple Authorized Service Center, as well as pieces of WSU history. Archways with glass garage doors separate the store from the café’s dining area, which can be used for after-hour university functions and partner events.

“We paid tribute to the Wildcats who have gone before us with a few dozen photographs from archives that highlight old athletic teams and other aspects of student life throughout the last 100 years,” Taylor said. “We’ve kept old murals and left the brick walls and wood flooring to preserve the historical integrity of the building.”

The rest of the building is set up for co-working — a collaborative approach to business and entrepreneurship that encourages serendipitous and creative interactions.

“The building will be a mecca for innovation,” said Alex Lawrence, WSU vice provost of innovation and economic development. “Startups, entrepreneurs, students and other community members now have a world-class, cutting-edge, technology-enabled location where they can meet and work. Weber State Downtown will serve as an epicenter for economic development, and tech companies and entrepreneurs will be drawn to Ogden because of it.”

The facility also brings the university back to its origins.

“Weber State opened in downtown Ogden nearly 125 years ago,” Wight said. “We’re delighted once again to have a strong presence so close to where it all began. At Weber State Downtown, bright minds will dream up many brilliant ideas that will impact our university, our community and our world.”

Faculty & Staff Accomplishments

Dental Hygiene faculty Susan Alexander, Shelly Costley, Frances McConaughy and Shane Parry accompanied two groups of students to the American Dental Hygienists Association in Boston to compete nationally with their research presentations. One of the student groups placed fourth. McConaughy also was selected as a judge for graduate research poster sessions at the conference.


Weber State University professor of supply chain management Shane Schwanveeldt recently was honored for research with colleagues in Japan that examines the relationship between perceived quality, customer satisfaction and market share. Their research paper, “A Cross-country Comparison of the Mechanisms Relating Customer Satisfaction and Market Share”, received the 2013 Nikkei Quality Management Literature Prize from the Deming Prize Committee in Japan.

Zoology assistant professor Christopher W. Hoagstrom recently published “Miocene rivers and taxon cycles clarify the comparative biogeography of North American highland fishes,” in the Journal of Biogeography. The paper revises and expands the historical explanation of how highlands in North America have accumulated so many unique species of stream fishes.