

## The Arch:

**Stories of Impact from the Center for Alumni Relations and Advancement** 



## Dear Friends and Supporters of South Dakota Mines,

As another remarkable year draws to a close, we are proud to share that the South Dakota Mines Center for Alumni Relations and Advancement (CARA) has once again achieved a record-setting

year in fundraising. Thanks to your unwavering generosity, we have raised over **\$20 million** for the **fourth consecutive year**—a truly outstanding achievement.

Even more momentous, we have now **exceeded our ambitious goal** for the **New Heights Campaign** – surpassing the \$100 million goal we set in the spring of 2020 and doing so well ahead of the campaign's scheduled conclusion in 2025.

To pause and reflect: This is a watershed moment in the history of South Dakota Mines. When planning for New Heights began more than five years ago, many believed that raising \$100 million was beyond our reach. No previous fundraising campaign in our university's history had come close to this scale.

But those skeptics underestimated something powerful—the enduring bond between Mines alumni and their alma mater. That bond, grounded in shared values, lifelong friendships, and a deep commitment to future generations, has fueled a campaign that has far outstripped expectations.

Of course, fundraising is not the goal itself, it's the means to a transformative end. The New Heights Campaign has already driven significant changes across campus:

Capital projects: Those who attended the 2025
 All-School Reunion saw the results firsthand—
 from the modernized Devereaux Library to
 the ongoing Surbeck Center expansion, to

the state-of-the-art Nucor Mineral Industries Building.

- Scholarship support: Over \$38 million has been added to our scholarship endowments, expanding access and opportunity for future Hardrockers.
- Academic excellence: More than \$35 million is now bolstering high-impact academic programs like CAMP, equipping students with hands-on, career-shaping experiences.

Together, these investments have elevated South Dakota Mines in every measurable way—ensuring our university is better positioned than ever to meet the needs of our students, faculty, alumni, and the society we serve.

We would be remiss not to recognize the dedicated team behind these efforts. They continue to deliver results year after year. On behalf of the Board of Directors, we extend our heartfelt gratitude the entire CARA team—your work makes our mission possible.

We also pause to honor those whose terms on the CARA Board are concluding. To our retiring board members, Jeremy Adams, Jeff Allen and Carlos Beatty, Jr, we thank you for your leadership, wisdom, and unwavering commitment. Your legacy will continue to shape our work for years to come.

Thank you once again for your belief in South Dakota Mines. Because of you, the future has never looked brighter.

With gratitude,

**Rich Wells** 

Chair, CARA Board of Directors South Dakota Mines



"Do your little bit of good
where you are; it's those
little bits of good put
together that overwhelm
the world." — Desmond Tutu

At South Dakota Mines and in our community, we live this truth every day. Every gift, every scholarship, and every act of support contributes to a mission that is bigger than any one of us. Together, we are building a future where students have greater access, faculty have stronger resources, and our university continues to lead in science and engineering education.

This past fiscal year was one of historic achievements for our university. The numbers tell a powerful story:

- We celebrated the **largest individual gift** in the university's history.
- Our New Heights campaign reached and surpassed its \$100 million goal.
- We raised \$21.9 million in philanthropic support, marking the fourth consecutive year exceeding \$20 million.
- Our endowment grew to nearly \$122 million, providing lasting support that will impact Mines students for generations to come.

Each of these milestones represents more than numbers or headlines. They reflect your belief in Mines, your trust in our mission, and your willingness to invest in the future. *You made this possible.*Through your generosity, students are pursuing their

dreams, faculty are advancing research, and new opportunities are being created across campus.

The South Dakota Mines Center for Alumni Relations & Advancement (CARA) exists to connect generosity with impact, ensuring that every dollar entrusted to us creates opportunity, strengthens academic and research excellence, and builds a sustainable future for Mines. The stories in this year's Arch highlight that impact: alumni creating scholarships that open doors, donors fueling innovation, and partners investing in programs that prepare students to lead.

I am deeply grateful to the CARA team and our Board of Directors for their integrity, stewardship, and commitment. Their work ensures that every contribution is managed responsibly and that every donor sees the tangible results of their investment.

I am proud of the strong foundation we have built and optimistic about the work ahead. Together, we will continue to advance the mission of South Dakota Mines, expanding access to education and creating a lasting impact through generosity that truly changes lives.

Go Hardrockers!
With gratitude and excitement for what is to come,

Malfanar f.

Marc Vaillancourt
Chief Executive Officer

On our cover:

Donors and friends of South Dakota Mines gathered on April 25 to official commemorate the opening of the Nucor Mineral Industries Building by holding a ribbon cutting ceremony.

## **New Team** Member

Ryan Bozer,

Development Officer.

Ryan's first introduction to South Dakota Mines was a summer camp in 2014. Envisioning himself on campus, he pursued his degree in Geology at Mines,

graduating in 2019. Prior to joining CARA, he was an educator, STEM director, and radio host. He brings his varied background to the CARA team, excited to listen, converse, and help donors have their desired impact on our Hardrocker community.

#### Mission

We promote the traditions, interests, influence, and reputation of South Dakota Mines among alumni and friends through meaningful engagement and by inspiring and stewarding philanthropy.

#### Vision

We will be a global network of alumni and friends who advance the prominence of South Dakota Mines.

#### Values

Integrity | Excellence | Collaboration | Stewardship | Community

#### **CARA Team**

Amanda Barnes.

Associate Vice President for Philanthropy

Nancy Beets,

Office Manager

Audrey Boehm,

Chief Financial Officer

Ryan Bozer,

Development Officer

Michelle Chikos,

Donor Stewardship & Engagement Officer

Jo Dwyer,

Alumni Engagement Coordinator

**Bailey Ellis**,

Director of Annual Giving

Shelli Grinager,

Director of Alumni Engagement

Nicole Haltiner,

Accountant

Brad Johnson,

Vice President of Development

Leah Mahoney,

Director of Planned Giving

Bonnie Mitra,

Senior Accountant

Amanda Rombough,

Director of Communications

JoAnn Strommen,

Database Administrator

Marc Vaillancourt.

Chief Executive Officer

lim Wilson.

**Property Manager** 

## **CARA Board of Directors FY25**

#### **DIRECTORS**

Mark Benson (MetE 82)\* Karla Callahan (ChemE 76) Jerry Farke (ME 2014) \* John Henderson (CE 94)\* Greg Hintgen (EE 99) Bill Jones (IE 96) Shashi Kanth (MIN E 93) Mike Koch (MIN E 80) Renita Mollman (CE 88)

Bob Morcom (CE 74) Marlene Nelson (ME 74)\* Jerilyn Roberts (ChemE 99) Larry Schmaltz (CE 79)\* Duke Tallam (EE 84) Dr. Lisa Zacher (Chem 85) Jeremy Adams (ME 2016) Jeff Allen (ChemE 77)\* Carlos Beatty, Jr. (IE 2013)

#### **OFFICERS**

Chair **Rich Wells** (ChemE 82)

**Vice Chair** Toni Richardson (IS 95)

Secretary (GeolE 83)

Treasurer

Tim Ogdie (ChemE 80)

**Ex-Officio** Dr. Brian Tande

Marc Vaillancourt

**Todd Williams** 

\*Members of Executive Committee

#### SURBECK UPDATE

Work continues on the Surbeck Student Center expansion. The project will add an approximate 18,200 square feet of space to the welcoming front door of campus, with a July 2026 completion date. The Surbeck Center expansion, which has been supported entirely by donor funds, will add additional spaces for gathering and studying, an increased dining facility, and allow numerous student programs and services to be housed under one roof. If you are interested in getting involved with a donation, feel free to visit our giving page at give.sdsmt.edu or scan the QR code.



## Opening Doors Early: The ACE Scholars Program Transforms First-Year Experiences

The summer after a student's first year in college can be a strange limbo. It is too soon for most internships, but it is too late to feel like the brand-new freshman just getting started. For chemical engineering majors at South Dakota Mines, that period is no longer a gap. Thanks to the Accelerating Career Exploration (ACE) Scholars program, students are stepping into research labs, working with established researchers, mentoring younger peers, and building skills that set them apart before they even start sophomore year.

The program was created in 2024 by Travis Walker (ACM ChemE 2008) Ph.D., associate professor in the Karen M. Swindler Department of Chemical and Biological Engineering (CBE), who saw the need to give first-year students a meaningful summer opportunity that would prepare them for internships and future research.

"We have incredibly talented students, but very few companies are willing to take on freshmen for internships," Professor Walker said. "That summer after their first year is such a critical time. If we can give them paid research opportunities, they not only build their resumes but also gain confidence and clarity about where they want to go."

#### A HEAD START IN RESEARCH

Each cohort of ACE Scholars thus far has logged hundreds of hours of handson lab work, developed technical and professional skills, mentored high school students in the Army Educational Outreach Program, and presented their research at the South Dakota EPSCoR Symposium in Sioux Falls.

For Gunner Edson, class of 2028, the summer meant discovering a passion he hadn't expected. "The ACE program helped me realize what I want to do with my degree and taught me that I enjoy the biology/bioprocess side of chemical engineering," Gunner said. "I'm now considering looking at graduate schools that focus more on that side of chemical engineering."

**Logan Merriam (2028)** explored alginate tubes in a biopolymers project. "The ACE program has given me lab experience



that will be invaluable for my future,"
Logan said. "The biggest benefit for me
has been getting familiar with working
in a lab, following lab safety procedures,
and learning how to properly work with
different materials. I feel more prepared
for higher-level courses and future
research opportunities."

Lily Herwig (2028) was introduced to electrospinning — a cutting-edge process used to create nanofibers with biomedical applications. "Being a part of the ACE program allowed me to experience research that I never would have thought I would get the chance to

do this early in my college career," Lily said. "It gave me the chance to learn how to use advanced equipment and gain a better understanding of how research works at Mines."

For Grayson Glass (2027), ACE provided clarity about his career direction. "The ACE program gave me a chance to see what research is like and how it can be used to advance chemical engineering," Grayson said. "It has made me more interested in pursuing a career in bioprocessing or pharmaceuticals."

■ And Allison Kahler (2027), who worked on optimizing the production of exopolysaccharides using two types of bacteria, emphasized the program's impact: "I got to take part in genuine research projects that will have a meaningful impact," Allison said. "It's really exciting to get that kind of experience with only a freshman education. Not only do you get experience as a freshman specific to your degree, but you also get paid to do it."

Over the summer, Allison completed more than 300 hours of laboratory research. "Having this experience will undoubtedly help me when I apply for internships and jobs in the future," she said.

### BUILDING CONFIDENCE AND COMMUNITY

The program was not just about lab work. Scholars also often mentor high school students and participate in outreach on campus, reinforcing their own learning and building leadership skills.

"It's one thing to learn something yourself, but teaching it to someone else really cements your understanding," Logan said.

By the end of each cohort, the ACE Scholars had not only produced impressive research but also forged bonds with one another and with faculty that will last throughout their time at Mines.

Professor Walker said he was especially encouraged by how quickly the students adapted. "They start the summer nervous about whether they can handle the work, and by the end, they were functioning like independent researchers," he said. "That kind of growth in just ten weeks is exactly what we hoped to see."

#### A MODEL FOR THE FUTURE

Each cohort of the program has been, by all accounts, a resounding success. But,



Professor Walker is only getting started. He hopes to expand the number of participating students each year and eventually establish a permanent endowment to ensure the program continues.

"We've already had upper classmen encouraging freshmen to apply," Professor Walker said. "That peer-to-peer excitement is what's going to keep this program growing."

That vision aligns with the program's funding roots. Seed money from the Swindler Endowment made the program possible for 2024, 2025, and heading into 2026, and donor support through Raising for Rockers is helping fuel its growth. The program is a clear example of how philanthropy directly impacts students, changing not only their Mines experience but also the trajectory of their careers.

"Innovation needs invention, and invention needs outstanding research and curious researchers," Dr. Rajesh Shende, chemical and biological engineering department head, said. "Developing such a program will motivate students for research in the early years of their careers. The CBE department is thankful to Dr. Walker for designing the ACE program, which will bring immense value to both undergraduate and graduate education and research."

For students like Gunner, Logan, Lily, Grayson, and Allison, the results are already evident. They're entering sophomore year with confidence, skills, and clarity that few undergraduates can claim.

"This program has allowed me to develop my knowledge and skills," Allison said. "It's an opportunity I'll carry with me for the rest of my career."

## Paying It Forward, Building the Future

Scholarship gift reflects a deep belief in education, community, and the power of opportunity.

For Roger and Diane Wilson, giving back through scholarships is both personal and community-minded. Though Roger didn't attend South Dakota Mines himself, he has long admired the university's role in Rapid City and the engineers it produces.

"I grew up here, and I've always respected the way the school has functioned," he said. "It's always been a top-drawer education for engineering. Our community needs the school as a functioning part of who we are."

Roger knows firsthand what a difference scholarships can make. As a student at the University of South Dakota and later the University of Iowa, he received scholarship support that eased his financial burden and allowed him to focus on

his studies. "That was a huge thing for me," he recalled. "I was able to get a decent education without getting into debt. You've got to pay it forward—that's part of our philosophy."

That philosophy extends beyond the schools he attended. He and his wife established a scholarship at Mines because they see the university's success as integral to the region's future. "We've enjoyed the benefits of having a school like this in our community," he said. "We want to see kids get support while they're in school. Even small scholarships, when you put a few together, can make a significant difference in a student's life."

For Roger and his wife, supporting Mines is also about preparing the next generation of problem-solvers. "Engineering students will be the ones managing the needs of society—whether it's water, climate, or energy. Mines is already doing research in those vital areas. Helping students here is really helping our whole society move forward."

While the scholarship is intended to ease financial strain, its impact goes deeper. "You hope it gives students a head start in life," he said. "Maybe it flips a switch and allows them to take opportunities they wouldn't have been able to otherwise. That's what we hope this scholarship can do."

#### **HUMANITIES**

Thanks to the generous donations from donors during Raising for Rockers, the Humanities department was able to transform a study space from a dark corner of their building to a vibrant and welcoming space for students to gather and collaborate



together. They were also able to send students to the 4S Conference, giving them an opportunity to learn outside the classroom

## **Small Gifts Big Impact**

Relationships that last. For Chris (MinE 97) and Tammy (IE 96) Klein, the friendships they formed at South Dakota Mines remain the heart of their connection to campus. Chris, a member of Triangle Fraternity, recalls how close-knit the Mining Engineering program was. "I knew everyone in the department," he says. Tammy, involved in Greek life as well, agrees: "The relationships, the friendships — they keep me coming back."

Those ties inspired the couple to give back. For many years, while living in Minnesota and raising their children, their support came here and there. But about five years ago, as their kids grew older and finished school, the Klines found themselves in a new season of life — one where they could contribute more consistently to the causes that mattered to them.

#### **ATMOSPHERIC SCIENCE**

As a result of Raising for Rockers, the Department of Atmospheric & Environmental Sciences was able to send students to the American Meteorological Society

annual meeting, allowing them to gain additional professional development outside of the classroom.



"We look for causes that we're both passionate about," Tammy says. "BAM, Triangle, and the Mining and Industrial Engineering programs had the most influence on us when we were there. Those are the organizations we were involved in, so it makes sense to give back."

Chris adds, "It's not so much about giving enough. If you can give something, just give something."

#### THE POWER OF SMALL GIFTS.

The Klines are quick to point out that philanthropy doesn't have to mean large checks or named funds. Small, steady contributions can make just as big an impact.

"As a college kid, \$50 can be quite a bit of money," Chris says. "Any little scholarship or grant I got when I was in school was big. Back then, that could have been a week's worth of meals."

Tammy echoes the sentiment, noting her own experience receiving a scholarship from alumna Sharon Chontos. "I remember holding down three jobs one summer to pay my way through college, and every little bit helped. Sharon's generosity made such an impression on me. That's always stuck."

Both see small, consistent gifts as a foundation for student success and institutional strength. "If you can't give big, then give consistently," Tammy says. "It's a way to stay connected, to provide stability. It doesn't wreak havoc on your finances, but it has a substantial impact over time."

#### MAKING A DIFFERENCE FOR STUDENTS.

Today, the Klines know their gifts are helping Mines students in ways that matter —



scholarships, equipment, and the support systems that make rigorous programs manageable.

"Scholarships mean one less student has to work part-time while in school," Chris says. "That makes it that much easier to get through."

Tammy hopes their giving eases the load in many ways. "College is challenging. We want students to have the support groups, the additional time in labs, the resources they need. More than that, I hope they see there are people out there who care about them and want them to succeed. That leaves an impression — and hopefully inspires them to turn around and do the same for the next generation."

For the Klines, giving together is also about setting an example. "We're focused

on doing it as a team, with shared interests," Tammy says. "It feels good knowing the campus and community are stronger for it."

#### A LASTING CONNECTION.

Returning to campus during their recent reunion reminded the Klines of just how much Mines has grown — and how much has stayed the same. "To think that when I was there, West Campus ended at the Surbeck parking lot, and now look at it," Chris reflects.

Tammy adds, "Enough remains the same that it still feels like home. The memories are still there."

For both, supporting Mines is about honoring those memories while investing in the future. "It's nice to know you're making a difference in some shape or form," Tammy says. "Even small gifts matter."

## **Engineering the Future:**

## **Philanthropy Powers the** Leslie A. Rose Department of Mechanical Engineering

#### A LEGACY OF GENEROSITY

On any given day, the Leslie A. Rose Department of Mechanical Engineering is buzzing with activity. Students sketch designs, build prototypes, and run tests. Behind this energy is something less visible but essential: philanthropy.

"The impact of the gifts has been substantial," says Dr. Pierre Larochelle, head of the department. "They enable us to maintain state-of-the-art equipment, do upgrades, allow us to recruit the best and brightest students to come to Mines, help our students in need, and attract world-class faculty. It permeates everything we do."

Almost every resource students touch — scholarships, labs, mentorship, and research — can be traced back to the generosity of alumni, friends, and corporate partners.

#### **CHOOSING MINES, CHOOSING MECHANICAL ENGINEERING**

For students like Cole Peterson

(2027), the choice to study mechanical engineering was influenced by both location and opportunity.

"I made the decision to be a student at Mines prior to making the choice to enter Mechanical Engineering. Class sizes, proximity to the Black Hills, and Mines being an engineering-focused college made my decision to come to Rapid City. Originally, I was undecided, but a look through the Civil/Mechanical building to see all the hands-on labs and learning environments made my selection of Mechanical Engineering as my major easy."

Samantha Winker (2027) echoes the sentiment, citing project-based learning as a key draw. "The main reason I chose Mechanical Engineering at Mines was the emphasis on hands-on, project-based learning. At another program, I might learn similar material in the classroom, but the opportunity to develop practical skills here is unique. From the very generations. beginning, even as a freshman,

we're working on projects and gaining real experience that puts us ahead of other programs."

#### **WORLD-CLASS FACULTY, ENDOWED BY GENEROSITY**

Faculty are at the heart of the Mines experience, and endowed positions have transformed the department's ability to attract and retain them.

"The resources that these endowed positions provide to the faculty members are transformative when it comes to recruiting," Dr. Larochelle explains. "Faculty members know that these positions come with resources to enable them to do the educating and researching they want to do. The named professorships carry a lot of weight and prestige, and it makes these positions really attractive."

The Stensaas Endowed Chair honors beloved professor Elden Stensaas, whose passion for hands-on education inspired

"That gift has been very



Les Rose (ME 70) visited Astro the robotic dog with his family during the All School Reunion. Astro was purchased with funds from Raising for Rockers, South Dakota Mines' 24hour giving day.

storage using battery storage and other chemistries. Now there's a huge energy storage lab doing world-class research, producing multiple PhD and cutting-edge research industry — without the vision of Larry (ME 72) and Linda Pearson, that wouldn't be happening."

impactful in maintaining our culture of doing world-class education and world-class research," Dr. Larochelle says. "We just hired another educator who would not be here at Mines if we did not have the Stensaas endowment."

#### THE PEARSON CHAIR BRINGS ANOTHER FOCUS — ENERGY.

"The holder of the Pearson Chair is focused on the energy field;

master's students going into this

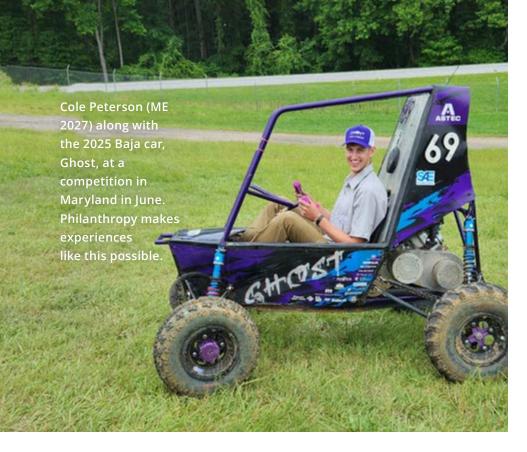
#### **HANDS-ON LEARNING AT ITS BEST**

Mechanical engineering at Mines is defined by experiential learning. For Cole, being able to apply theory in practice has deepened his understanding.

"Hands-on learning has allowed me to immediately apply what I learn in theoretical lectures. Being able to not just visualize, but directly experience the physics governing the equations we use, gives me a new understanding of what I learned in class. Furthermore, my appreciation for Design for Manufacturing was only realized once I began making the parts I designed — another incredibly useful experience!"

Samantha emphasizes that the department's labs cater to multiple learning styles.

"For me, and probably for many other Mechanical Engineering students, donations directly support spaces like the machine shop, the reef, the aquarium, the zoo, and the wood shop. These facilities provide us with the opportunity to develop hands-on skills and apply the concepts we learn in the classroom. What makes them especially valuable is that



not every student learns the same way. These spaces provide multiple avenues for learning and help students better grasp the fundamentals of engineering."

### SCHOLARSHIPS THAT CHANGE LIVES

While labs and faculty are critical, scholarships often make the most personal difference.

"My scholarship support has allowed me to continue enrollment at Mines! I would not be able to financially support myself without the scholarships offered by the school, which are donor funded. This is very important to me, as I have found a home at Mines," Cole says.

Teagan Wright, another scholarship recipient, describes how funding creates space to grow beyond academics.

"Scholarship support has given the gift of time by not having to work during the academic year. This has allowed me to participate in the music department (Concert Choir, Jazz A Cappella, Singing Engineers) and travel to Austria with the choir to participate in the Salzburg Music Festival. I have also had the opportunity to get into rock climbing, which I absolutely love. In addition, I am a student athlete on the cross-country and track teams. All of this would not have been possible if I needed to also hold a job, as I juggle a full load of academics and athletics."

Samantha notes that scholarships allow her to prioritize learning and leadership:

"Because I am fortunate

enough to receive scholarships, I'm able to focus more on my academics. Without them, I would likely need to work one or two jobs just to support myself through school. Instead, I can put my education first without the added financial burden."

### MENTORSHIP AND FACULTY SUPPORT

Beyond facilities and funding, donors help create mentorship opportunities that shape students' journeys.

"One of the biggest impacts my professors have had on me is nominating me to become an M.E. Ambassador, and later, a shop mentor in the machine shop," Samantha shares. "Without their support, I wouldn't have had the chance to show prospective students just how valuable the opportunities at Mines are."

Teagan also highlights the difference a dedicated faculty mentor can make:

"Ardell Knudson has consistently gone above and beyond for me. He has been welcoming since the first time I walked onto campus during my visit to Mines. He took significant time to show me the department and labs and share the exciting things that were happening there. His dedication and pride made me excited about my decision to come to Mines."

#### **INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIPS**

Corporate partners complement scholarships and labs, providing mentorship and real-world insight.

"Corporate partners have a great opportunity to get involved with the department and form meaningful partnerships to help them recruit their future employees," Dr. Larochelle says. "We have a long relationship with the Nucor Corporation, for example. They provide resources constantly, and we have Nucor mentors focused on manufacturing shops where students learn fabrication and manufacturing techniques."

#### RAISING FOR ROCKERS: SMALL GIFTS, BIG IMPACT

Not every gift is a million-dollar endowment — but every gift matters. Through Raising for Rockers, alumni and friends have rallied behind fun, visible projects.

"The first campaign, the supersonic wind tunnel tank, needed painting," Dr. Larochelle

recalls. "We engaged a local artist, and now we have an inspirational piece of art on that tank which celebrates mechanical and aerospace engineering. It brought some color to our campus."

Subsequent campaigns brought Astro the robot dog to Mines, inspiring students and K–12 classrooms alike. Most recently, the initiative funded full-time research opportunities for five of the department's top students. "They're coauthoring papers and posters and going to conferences to present their work," Dr. Larochelle says.

#### PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE

Looking ahead, Dr. Larochelle sees unrestricted gifts as key to keeping Mines nimble.

"The best gifts for the department's future are those unrestricted gifts," he says. "The world's changing so fast; higher education is changing so fast.
With unrestricted gifts, new needs pop up and we have the resources to affect change. We can stay

Larry Pearson (ME 72) was able to visit with Dr. Weibing Xing and several students during the All School Reunion to learn about some of the research and projects that are taking place.

on the cutting edge with these unrestricted gifts."

He also points to the youth and energy of the faculty as a source of excitement.

"The majority of the faculty have been hired in the last seven years — really great young people who are planning to have 40-year careers here. The next 10 years are going to be very exciting for the department. The resources from these gifts are going to make a phenomenal difference."

#### IMPACT THAT LASTS

At a university of Mines' size, even moderate gifts can be transformative.

"One of the great things about the School of Mines is we remain a small school," Dr. Larochelle says. "Very moderate-sized gifts to the ME department can be very impactful, impacting hundreds or thousands of students to have a transformative experience here that changes the trajectory of their path, their family, their future."

He sums it up simply:

"Our faculty and staff work extremely long and hard hours to provide a world-class ME education to our students, and we're able to do that because of your generosity. We take a lot of pride and satisfaction in the work that we do, and these gifts enable us to do that work."

THE ARCH: 2025



## Paying It Forward:

## Karl Gerdes (ChemE 71)



When Karl Gerdes (ChemE 71) arrived at South Dakota Mines, he never imagined he'd end up on the football field. Weighing just 145 pounds after high school, athletics wasn't on his radar. But by sophomore year, he'd grown into the game, grinding his way onto the team and eventually becoming the team's long snapper his senior year.

"Football absolutely forced me to be organized and disciplined," Gerdes recalls. "Balancing a full course load with practices and games taught me to prioritize and

#### **CHEMISTRY**

Funds raised during Raising for Rockers allowed the chemistry department to update gathering spaces for students. These enhancements were aimed at making the CBEC lobby spaces more welcoming, functional, and student-friendly.

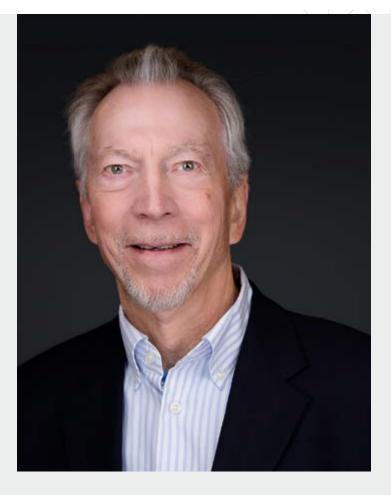


focus. It built bonds with teammates that were unlike anything else."

Those lessons carried him through graduate school, a successful career with Chevron, and a lifelong commitment to giving back. Today, Gerdes and his wife, Pamela Rohrich, DVM, have established two endowed scholarships at Mines — one supporting academics and one for student-athletes — to ensure future generations can have the same opportunities he did.

#### **INVESTING IN STUDENTS**

Gerdes remembers attending Mines when state support for higher education kept tuition affordable. "My wife and I were lucky to attend at a time when states still invested heavily in higher education," he says. "It's a lot harder today for students to get through without taking on immense debt. That's been behind our funding of scholarships — we finally reached a position in life where we could pay it back."



His endowed academic scholarship supports students in Mines' rigorous programs. More recently, he created an endowed athletics scholarship to help student-athletes balance the heavy demands of both academics and competition. "Competing in intercollegiate athletics is a huge learning experience," Gerdes says. "It's also a huge drain on your time and energy. To the extent I can help students achieve their goals in the classroom and on the field, that was the incentive."

#### A RIPPLE EFFECT

Gerdes hopes his giving not only eases the burden for current students, but also inspires a culture of generosity. "I hope scholarship recipients acknowledge the benefit of receiving support, and then think ahead to how they will pay it forward as well," he says. Students who benefit from his support already share that vision:

"This scholarship will allow me to become more involved on campus and in organizations I am passionate about. One major commitment for me these upcoming semesters is serving as the High Rho for Lambda Chi Alpha here on campus. This role requires a lot of time and concentration, and thanks to your support, I can focus more on the role and contributing to my fraternity and less on financial stress."

— Brooks Brandner, Class of 2027

#### **BUILDING THE FUTURE TOGETHER**

For Gerdes, supporting Mines is about more than his own legacy. It's about ensuring the university remains strong in a challenging environment. "Support by alumni is important to give the university the wherewithal to compete," he says. "Alumni support is a signal to the state and the public that the school is valued and worth investing in."

He offers a simple message to fellow alumni considering giving back: "Just do it. It's tremendously satisfying and it's what builds the future. If you've got any hope for the future, part of it is making sure we produce educated, solid citizens — which is what Mines can continue to excel at with philanthropic support."

## The Power of a Scholarship: Students Say Thank You

Behind every scholarship is a story — a dream pursued, a burden lifted, a future made possible. At South Dakota Mines, scholarships don't just open doors; they change lives. Each year, hundreds of students take the time to write heartfelt thank-you letters, sharing how donor generosity makes their education possible. Here are just a few of their voices:

"I wish to thank you on behalf of myself and the other students who are lucky enough to attain this reward. I believe that it is imperative for students to receive financial aid and benefits in order to supplement and encourage their academic future. Personally I would not be going to school without scholarships, grants, or benefits. I deeply appreciate the many opportunities I've been given to attend my ideal school in my desired field. I grew up in a family where college was a second thought— neither of my parents had graduated high school, and that was the expectation for me growing up."

- James Killion, (BIOL and GEOL 2029)

"I am a first-generation college student from Lead, South Dakota. I do not come from an easy background, as my family and I struggled throughout my early years. Once I became of age to work and help out my family, I did. It was during these times that I wanted to be a turning point in my family. I decided I wanted to pursue a brighter future and life than the one I had already been presented... You are helping give me and many others a better chance at a successful future."

- Connor Harrison (CsC 2029)

#### **OPPORTUNITIES CREATED**

Scholarships remove financial barriers, giving students the chance to focus fully on their education and future careers. "This scholarship allows me to focus more on my schoolwork and less on financial concerns, allowing me to take full advantage of the opportunities South Dakota Mines has to offer. Your generosity inspires me to work even harder toward achieving my academic and personal goals... This scholarship brings me closer to achieving these goals, and I am deeply grateful for the role you play in making my college career possible."

– Zachary Schutte (ME 2028)



#### **DREAMS FOR THE FUTURE**

Beyond the classroom, scholarships give students the confidence to look ahead — to internships, careers, and the impact they'll make after graduation.

"Looking to the future, I aim to pursue a career that blends robotics and mechanical engineering to create solutions that address real-world challenges. Whether designing automated systems or contributing to innovations in manufacturing or healthcare, I hope to make a lasting impact through my work. I also hope to be in a position someday to donate back to Mines in the same way that someone has for me to help the next generation of Hardrockers. Once again, thank you for your generosity and belief in my potential. This scholarship has not only helped fund my education — it has also inspired me to work harder, dream bigger, and make the most of my time at South Dakota Mines."

- William Harvey (ME 2029)

because it is a prestigious school in the engineering field. Also, because it is challenging. Nothing great ever comes easy, and this gives me an opportunity to be great in my field. My long-term career goal is to open my own engineering firm. Running a business has always been a dream of mine and now I have found my discipline. I need all the help I can get, and this scholarship is a huge part of it." - Jackson Reno, (CE 2028)

Receiving this scholarship not only eases the financial burden of college but also motivates me to strive even harder to reach my goals. It means so much to be supported by someone who once walked the same halls and shared similar aspirations. Thank you again for your support, your belief in students like me, and for giving back to the next generation of engineers. I hope to one day pay it forward, just as you have.

- Ava Johnson, (ME 2029)

#### OR AS ONE STUDENT PUT IT BEST:

"The donation that you have made means an enormous amount to me, making school more attainable and helping me take steps to reaching my goals in life. I aspire to be a very successful and respected engineer in my career, and with your donation those goals become far clearer and within my field of view. The donation that you have made goes beyond helping the students here at South Dakota School of Mines pay for their education. It shows that the alumni from our school have faith in us to achieve what they have accomplished with their degree and that someone wants them to achieve their goals."

- Jackson Parrill, (ME 2028)

## Paying It Forward:

# How One Young Alum is Making a Big Impact Through Continuous Giving

When Justin Wenner (ME 2006) graduated from South Dakota Mines, he left with more than a degree. He left with a sense of gratitude for the education, leadership opportunities, and community that shaped his future.

"The School of Mines provided me with the education and leadership opportunities, all the things necessary to put me in a great job right out of school," he said. "The school really set me up for success, so I felt that it was important I pay it forward and help others have those same opportunities that I had."

That motivation to "pay it forward" has guided him ever since. Early in his career, he began giving back to Mines — not with large, one-time gifts, but with continuous support. For him, the consistency mattered more than the size. "The key is just getting started,



The 73rd West River Math Competition was held in May 2025 thanks to support from Raising for Rockers. This annual competition brings together hundreds of students from around the region.



any amount can make a difference, it kind of snowballs," he says. "Start with a small amount, as you become better able to and are led by your heart, keep increasing. Every gift makes an impact, there's not a right amount."

His giving often reflects the people and experiences that shaped his student years. He remembers working closely with Jason Ash, a longtime mentor in the Leslie A. Rose

Department of Mechanical Engineering. "Seeing all he's given to the school, the ASME Design Competition Teams, and his commitment to the students, is an inspiration," he says. Justin's involvement in Triangle fraternity, Student Senate and other organizations also created lifelong connections. "Seeing my friends, other alumni, stepping up and making a difference, I wanted to do my part and keep the campus community strong."

Mines traditions also helped create that sense of community he wanted to give back to. He recalls climbing M Hill during whitewashing of the M, complete with a thrift store suit. "All the traditions, from Beanie Hats, to whitewashing the M, to Senior Hats bonds us together, not just with our generation, but with past and future generations that come here for an education" he says.

Giving back, he explains, is as much about community as it is about financial support.

Coming from a small farming community, he says he was humbled by the opportunities his Mines education afforded him. "I didn't know I'd be in the position straight out of college that I was in, and I felt like the salary that I was able to gain was more than I needed, so I wanted to give this back to others," he says.

That sense of community deepened during a tragedy when he was involved in a car accident that took the lives of two fraternity brothers, Trent and Chad. "The community and support network really helped me through a tough time and I just wanted to give back. I can't thank Dean Mahon and the campus community enough."

Now based in Kansas City, he's committed to keeping alumni connections strong beyond campus. As another way to give back, he currently serves as the chair for the alumni chapter in Kansas City, planning events and get togethers for other South Dakota Mines alum in the area.

"When my wife and I moved to KC, we knew no one. It wasn't long before we met and were



welcomed by alum's living there. It's great to have that community of alumni who you can lean on when you're new to an area," he says. "We all have this connection back to School of Mines; we're a small school, we're close knit, we have this connection. That is what makes Mines unique!"

His message to fellow alumni is simple: start small, start early, and know that every gift matters. "No amount is too little; give what you feel comfortable, give what's in your heart. It's fulfilling to know you are providing opportunities for the next generation of Hardrockers."



\$171,258,500

CARA NET ASSETS

\$122,943,650

**ENDOWED FUNDS** 

2,536

**TOTAL NUMBER OF DONORS** 

\$21,882,600

**TOTAL AMOUNT RAISED** 

\$1,079,250

**FACULTY AND RESEARCH SUPPORT** 

\$7,374,300

\$2,114,100 STUDENT ASSISTANCE

\$3,204,500

**FACILITY ADDITIONS AND UPKEEP** 

\$3,807,213

ACADEMIC & ATHLETIC SCHOLARSHIPS FUNDE

21
NEW ENDOWMENTS IN FY25

ENDOWMENTS BY CATEGORY

\$122,943,650

\$1,043,800 RESEARCH

\$5,695,500 ATHLETIC SCHOLARSHIPS

\$6,029,600 STUDENT ASSISTANCE

\$7,251,250 UNRESTRICTED

\$13,342,400
FACULTY
DEVELOPMENT

\$22,226,700

DEPARTMENT
SUPPORT

\$67,354,400 ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS

## Forging His Own Path: Gregory Domashenko's Journey

When Gregory Domashenko (ME 2028) arrived at South Dakota Mines, he brought with him the resilience of someone who had been pushing forward on his own for most of his life.

Growing up in New Jersey, Gregory's parents were older and had already raised families, so he often felt like he was navigating challenges independently. His mother, however, kept him busy with soccer, chess, advanced math, and science activities.

"At the time I thought it was annoying to go from school straight to more activities," Gregory says. "But now I'm really thankful. It set me ahead of my peers and prepared me for the workload I face now."

That preparation paid off when he was accepted to Bergen County Academies, a prestigious technical high school with demanding coursework and a required internship. The rigor was intense, but it meant that by the time Gregory arrived at Mines, much of the curriculum felt familiar. "Other people found it difficult, but for me it felt natural," he says.

His internship with a mechanical engineering team, however, convinced him that wasn't the right fit. When his mother suggested mining engineering,

Gregory researched programs and visited Mines, Colorado School of Mines, and McGill University. Mines became the clear choice—and soon after, life changed even more.

#### THE SCOFIELD SCHOLARSHIP

Gregory was stunned when he opened a letter awarding him the Jared Scofield Mining & Geological Engineering Scholarship.

"At first I thought something had to be wrong," he remembers. "But here I am."

The \$17,000 scholarship significantly reduced his financial burden. And at a time when his family was facing uncertainty—his mother had lost her job before going on disability, and his father's modest income as a nurse couldn't cover tuition—it was transformative.

"This scholarship has taken so much pressure off me and my family," Gregory says. "College is just getting more and more expensive. Without this, I don't know how we would be managing."

For Gregory, the impact goes beyond tuition. "The biggest thing is I don't have to have a job while I'm in school," he explains. "I have friends who work

This past July, the South Dakota Mines Concert Choir toured Austria for the first time, performing in several cities over a week filled with music and cultural experiences. Starting in Vienna and continuing through Melk to Salzburg, the choir gave four memorable performances in historic, acoustically rich venues.



The tour's highlight was a collaborative concert at the Salzburg Choral Festival, where they joined

six other choirs and the Salzburger Dom Symphony Orchestra in the magnificent Salzburg Cathedral.





insane hours just to stay in college. Instead, I can focus on my academics and all the extracurriculars I'm involved in."

#### A FULL LIFE AT MINES

Gregory is a member of the Mining and Mucking team, where he traveled to England his freshman year to compete in an international mining competition. His coed team won first place overall.

He's also a cadet in ROTC, training with the Ranger Challenge team, waking up early for physical training, ruck marches, and weapons familiarization. "It's a great group of people who feel like a family," he says. "They push me to be my best." On top of that, Gregory is pursuing Mine Rescue training and tutoring middle school math students online in classes he designs himself. "It's another big time commitment, but I like being busy," he says. "The scholarship makes it possible."

#### **LOOKING AHEAD**

As for the future, Gregory is keeping his options open. ROTC may lead him into a military

career, either long-term or for several years before transitioning to industry. He's drawn to underground mining, particularly precious metals, and hopes to land an internship soon to gain more hands-on experience.

"Right now I feel a little clueless," he admits with a laugh. "But I know for sure I want to be a leader, whether that's in the Army or in mining. That's how I'll make a difference."

#### **PAYING IT FORWARD**

For Gregory, the Jared Scofield Scholarship is not just money—it's a responsibility.

"I don't want to throw this away," he says. "It's not on my dime. Someone else is paying for my education. I want to make sure I'm putting it to good use."

And while his journey is still unfolding, one thing is certain: the investment made in Gregory is already yielding returns in his academic success, leadership, and determination. "This scholarship really changed my life," he says simply. "It made college possible for me. I'm so thankful."



Together, we've built more than buildings—we've built opportunity.

We've opened doors, expanded futures, and sparked innovation across South Dakota Mines.

But the summit isn't the end—it's the beginning of our next great ascent.

**Scan or visit bit.ly/givenewheights** to help shape the future.

## **Class Giving**

\* Deceased

**CLASS OF 1949** 

Doug Fuerstenau Jim Ward

**CLASS OF 1951** 

Jim Morrison Morris Range Lowery Smith

#### **CLASS OF 1953**

Thomas Beyer Paul Conrad Harold Hanson Ray Sauer Roy Strom

#### **CLASS OF 1954**

Darrell Brekke
Arnie Mueller
Harold Von Colln
Dick Wismer
Donald Zimmerman

#### CLASS OF 1955

**Chuck Dougherty** 

#### **CLASS OF 1956**

Chao-Ning Liu John Mohr Val Ptak Dennis Shoener Roger Stapf Pete Vossos

#### **CLASS OF 1957**

Bill Benda Charles Goodart Ben Schatz\*

#### **CLASS OF 1958**

Anonymous (2)

John Burggraff\*
Bob Kelley
Roger Kiel
Donn Lobdell
Errol Matzke
Wes Mendenhall
William Nagel
Stuart Ulfers

#### **CLASS OF 1959**

**Curt Westley** 

Terry Fiechtner
Conrad Fuchs
Allan Hins
Roy Hoffman
Robert Hollenbeck
Don Houck
Dave Huschke
Clark Kurtz
Richard Lee
Rick Maki
JW Matousek
Landy Stinnett

#### **CLASS OF 1960**

Anonymous
Sherwin Artus
Jim Bailey
Dale Bryson
Carl Coad
Dave Coe
Doug Olson
George Peacore
Bob Pederson
Dave Rogers

#### **CLASS OF 1961**

Anonymous
Larry Blair
Dave Braun
Jerry Daughenbaugh

Chuck Fishel
Hank Foglesong
Denny Gough\*
Jim Hauck
Joe Kulik
Joel Martin\*
Bob Nelson
Loren Peters

#### **CLASS OF 1962**

**Dennis Price** 

Bob Bottge
Cecil Deisch
Val Dutcher
Lee Harms
Mel Klasi
David Likness
Merlin Malde
Ed Mead
Tom Monheim
Walter Paulsen
Ken Sageser
John Sibert
Bob Stofft
Iames Wilhelm

#### CLASS OF 1963

Russ Buyse
Jim Chittick
Bill Demmon
Archie Doering
Guy Everhart
Carl Gehring
Marvin Hammer
Ing-chang Jong
William Kass
Keith Kitzman
Roger Lange
Gilbert Linkswiler
Lonnie Ludeman
Jack Mallow

Howard Riewe Jim Smolik Charles Snyder Tom Warborg Dick Zarneke

#### **CLASS OF 1964**

Larry Ayres Sam Begeman Joyce Bjork Phil Bjork David Christensen Jim Curnow Lon Denison lim Fry Ted Haley Bill Harris Owen Hollingsworth Richard Howard Tex Longcor Wayne Lotz Tom McLaughlin Ray Rossi Roger Scheusner Jerry Takle **Bob Wedwick** 

#### CLASS OF 1965 Loren Anderson

Don Becker Ken Berg Jerry Brown Ron Cullum William Delinger Bill Dukelow Gus Gustafson\* Douglas Hanson Joe Harris Dan Hoshino Art Hunt Bill McDowell Gerry Meyer Dave Novotny Daryl Pratt Neil Randen Steven Reyner Dick Schlumpberger Paul Smart Dave Sorum Ronald Uttecht

#### **CLASS OF 1966**Wayne Anderson

Jim Baker Larry Baruth Eric Batchelder Fred Beauvais Larry Brusse Larry Carswell Bill Ferguson Mike Gilbertson Frank Hahn Rick Lyke Charles Marks Larry Mohr Carol Reed Herb Reichert Hugh Ritchey Mel Roberts Larry Rohl Tim Sagen Monte Schneider Ion Smith Ron Smith Alan Swanson lim Yoss

#### **CLASS OF 1967**

Ray Aberle **Anonymous Gary Britton Duane Broline** Les Davis Dean Edmundson Ron Foster Bob Glodowski Wally Gutzmer John Heinemann Ralph Heinert **Dennis Hinders** Eliot Johnson Erv Nesheim Howard Noziska Randy Parcel lim Roehr Roger Rollins Dean Shroll Ron Stember Walt Strobel Duane Trythall Benton Visser

## **Class Giving**

\* Deceased

Bernie Wilcox Walter Williams

**CLASS OF 1968** Paul Axtell Jim Borin Doc Bross Iim Crouch Jim Deters **Bob Dominicak** Thomas Flakoll Tom Gaidry Mike Hobler Andy Hunsbedt lim Keil Jim Kotas Dennis Krause Bill Larson Gene McPherson Michael Mitchell Jim Neuharth Peggy Nissen Steve Nordaker Craig Nordby Terry Pavelka **Gerry Ries** Sam Rokusek Bill Roth Delmar Rumph Halvdan Saethre Steven Sanborn John Steichen Peter Stephans Richard Storm John Synhorst Bill Thorvaldson

#### **CLASS OF 1969**

Ron Albertson Melva Cain Mike Configliacco lim Cox Rick Digiantonio Dianne Dorland Paul Fauss Dave Hammond Diane Hammond Alan Hann M. R. Hansen Ron Jeitz Dan Johnson Fred Kopp Richard Mickelson Steven Ogden Marv Olson **Bob Powles Bob Pullman** Jeff Ransom Larry Richards Larry Roduner Jim Russell leanette Salverson Chuck Schneider Lin Seder Bruce Seger Larry Simonson Lance Sloan Daniel Staton Darrell Svalstad **JT Thomas** Phil Wagner

#### **CLASS OF 1970**

Kathy Ammon Mike Basham Glenn Beusch Vernon Brown Dennis Bryan

Randy Daughenbaugh Ron DeJong Terry Downing Lynn Ebbesen Anita Flindt Terry Fuller Chuck Geary Gary Gunther Dennis Gusse Thomas Hsu Jerome Johnson Olav Maehle Don Meisel Jim Miller John Nedrud Dennis Olsen Gene Quinn Ron Rehfuss Fred Rist Russ Roeber

Les Rose

Frank Rubin

Craig Scott

Barb Seder

Geir Seger

Tom Sheldon

Lyle Steffen

Tom Zeller

Jerry Sechser

Dick Salverson

Jarle Dahl

#### **CLASS OF 1971**

Alan Anderson Vernon Arens Darrel Auch Scott Barber Curt Belden Pete Birrenkott **lim Cameron** 

Steven Danekas **John Davies** Leroy Foster Bob Gjere Jim Goodman Wayne Greaves Don Hamann Steven Hoffman Timothy Holleman Randall Ice Dennis Johnson Steve Kaufman David Larson Steven Mills Keith Mutchler Roger Nelsen Randy Nelson Harvey Robinson Ray Roseland Jim Swartz

Pat Tlustos

Eric Warren

Steve Weeldreyer

Dale Westendorf

Gary Weishaar

**CLASS OF 1972** Bob Apa Gary Baker Steve Bode Jerald Byg Dan Daniels **David Daughters Bob Deis** Jeff Dietz Clyde Ericsson Gary Evensen Harald Flatoen Lester Goldstine Jake Hess Don Hixson David Hogue Stephen Isaacson Kenneth Juell Ken Kolegraff Keith Kostlan Ron Lacher Mike Langerman Steve Lux

Don Pawlowski

Larry Pearson Michael Peterson Steve Pirner Lance Swanhorst Leo Van Sambeek **Gary Veurink** Bill Woodward

#### **CLASS OF 1973**

Mike Alley

Anonymous

John Bradford

Dennis Brady

Vickie DeNeui

Packer DeMarcus

Dave Berg

Bill Dailey

Joseph Gersic Ioel Grace Russ Guenthner Doug Ham Arne Hatlestad Robert Heier Steve Jeschke Wayne Kellogg lim Konst Patrick Langerman Michael Langner Terry Linde Jerry Lipovsky Scott Marin Michael Matson Richard Moen Lawrence Muellenberg Rick Nixon Dale Novstrup **Doug Quiett** Jim Quinn Lou Rensch David Roth **Bruce Sabacky** Jerry Schley **Butch Skillman** Henry Smith David Springhetti Jim Stoebner Raymond Symens Ron Symens Merle Symes

Doug Todd Tom Van Wyhe **Bob Waxdahl** Bill Weber John White

#### **CLASS OF 1974**

Mark Adel

Tom Anderson Anonymous (2) Alan Bergeron Lavonne Blucher-Nameny David Cappa Christina Chiang Lin Chiang Gary Christman Monte Dirks Larry Dresch Tony Eichstadt Jim Green Dave Habicht Kevin Hegerle Stacey Hieb Jerry Jarding Francis Johnson Donald Kellar Chuck Kliche Darwin Koepp Sue Koepp Chuck Konechne Marvin Larsen Steve Lin James McNulty Ivan Mehlhaff Kathy Miller Roger Mitchell Bob Morcom Gerry Morgen Jeff Muffat Marlene Nelson Al Ness Tom Ohlmacher Art Rausch Arlen Schamber Steven Schmidt Jim Schunneman Jim Scull Lindell Sunde

Don Swanson

Ellen Thompson Francis Toscana Steve Vanderboom Arnie Victor Bill Wahl

#### **CLASS OF 1975**

Eileen Peterson

Randy Powell

Linda Rausch

Tom Tammen

Ralph Wagner

Wayne Welch

**CLASS OF 1976** 

Mark Berggren

Karla Callahan

Tom Eizember

Patrick Hallauer

Joan Howard

Lang-Ping Chang

Al Berreth

Julie Dahl

lim Dunn

Bill Fall

Denise Barton-Miller

Allen Walter

Chip Story

Al Tidball

Wayne Larsen Jerry Neal Rita Neff Carmen Adams Anonymous Kathy Rodgers Debbie Roggenthen Bill Belden Lorin Brass Bob Roggenthen Darles Scheibe **Bob Case** Laurie Chamberlin Les Siewert Deek Chancellor Pat Smith Dan Eisenbraun Kathy Ulman Doug Emme Sue-Lee Wang Chuck Enze Tom White Paul Fuoss John Zoss Pat Halley Dave Hammerquist **CLASS OF 1977** Jeff Allen Mark Hjelmfelt Jeffrey Ingerson Tim Anderson Carroll Laufmann Anonymous David Lolley Bill Betten Doug Miller Mary Brass Ken Miller **Greg Bucknell** John Osnes Owen Palm

Dan Carlson Steven Cooper Brian Freese

John Hull Margaret Larsen Karen Niedan-Palm Polo Pawlowski Joe Peanasky Jim Pompy Bob Quinn

Jeane Hull

Dennis Howe

Rodney Jerger

Colleen Kelley

Monty Jost

Dan Jackson

Mark Rezac Bruce Stovall Terry Straetker Ken Wrede

#### **CLASS OF 1978**

**Ernest Anoma** Anonymous (2) Orie Barnes Rollo Cain SK Choudhury Sam Colvin Sharalyn Colvin

Dan Coon Kevin DeSomber Dennis Doerr Peter Eckhoff M.J. Green Judd Hansen

Monty Hintz leff Hohle Yvonne Baker Hoop John Hovanec

Eirh-Yu Hsie Daryl Jensen Carol Lyell Paul Millea Neil Nolop Don Oakland Sam Polino

Steve Hinman

lim Rankin Stan Roberts Kip Squire Robert Stuard

Dave Thompson Larry Todd Linda Wiley Mark Wismer

Randy Zwetzig

**CLASS OF 1979** Roger Anderson Sandra Anderson Anonymous (4) Steven Bauer Steven Bauman Hugh Boyle John Chandler Pete Chikos Elaine Cowley Arden Davis Gary Gabe Jeanne Goodman Kim Haarberg David Hoffman Morris Hunt Timothy Johnston Mark Kalmi Linda Pirtle Rick Redder

Joanne Rieger

Larry Schmaltz

Jim Spurrier **Gary Stevens** Koby Stoll **Bruce Weeks** J.D. Wientjes Daryl Zimmerman

**CLASS OF 1980** Lallie Adams-Peterson John Alden Mark Anderson Anonymous (2) Gaurdie Banister Doug Beck Lynn Bell Greg Brekken Peggy Carder Jim Cole Knut Dahl-Stamnes Susan Dake Parviz Eftekhari Randal Evans **Tony Evers** Tom Farrell **Dwight Gemar** Jeene Hobbs Mike Koch Barry Koepke Leah Mahoney Bonnie McCourtie Amy Momsen Tim Ogdie Ray Peterson Jerry Pfarr Randy Rausch Don Sargent **Bobby Schmitz Gerry Schulte** Tom Schweitzer Michael Stahl Doug Stalheim **Todd Stewart** John Stieha Dan Watson Rod Webber Mark Woytassek Deborah Zimmerman

Alumni who gave between July 1, 2024, and June 30, 2025

William Torrie

Brian Tucholke

Don Wessel

## **Class Giving**

\* Deceased

#### **CLASS OF 1981**

Kreg Beck Hilary Brook Willie Chiang Tim Dake Charlene Dubs Bart Eddy Steve Elrod **Dusty Gilyard** Reah Graham-Dahl -Stamnes Jim Hildebrand Michael Johnson Martin Kidner David Kuhlmeier Dave Litzen

#### **CLASS OF 1982**

Lori Litzen

Doug Martin

Blaine Olson

Rick Ross

Ken Simon

Janice Vosika

Randall Newcomb

Harry Rossander

Anonymous (2) Mandy Barker Tim Barker Mark Benson Tracy Bentley Dean Bierwagen Bret Budd Greg Fiegen Doug Fluke Alan Goldschmidt **Greg Hess** Manalee Johnson Stu Kellogg Dana Koth Jill Nelson

Kurt O'Bryan Ruth Partlo **Brian Powers** Alvin Punt Brvan Ripp Mike Soukup Rich Wells

**CLASS OF 1983** Lea Anderson Carl Beck Karen Eidsness Dorothy Engelking Dave Erb Debra Fowler Rosa Lea Grav Burke Henehan Creties Jenkins Doug Johnson Kristi Johnston Mark Koepke Leighton Lien Jerry Logan Shirley Mondy Clark Neuharth Lorraine Padden

Terry Schultz Mark Sewell Perry Sweet Barb Watson **Todd Williams** Tom Barnum

### Linda Weltzin

Mike Perkovich

Srini Sundaramoorthy Brian Vognild

> **CLASS OF 1984** Anonymous (2)

Jerry Beckman Leo Beer

Jim Bier

Ion Christopherson William Cross Todd Eckstaine Danna Eisnach Nesler Mark Fakler Mark Falk

Bhargav Gollabinnie Jay Higashi Roger Hodson Kyle Hoops Mike Jahraus Shiri Kadambi

Ion Kellar Karl Knapp Camille Kovarik Dave Kyllonen

Milton McPeek **Bob Miller** Dale Morrison Mark Mudlin

Steve Mullan Paul Nelson Carrie Nettles Joe Odegaard

Christina Olheiser Mike Pagel Lesley Pedde Ravi Ravichandran

Gene Rye Scott Schmidt Mark Stafford

Duke Tallam James Unruh Dan Weinacht Trudy Wells

**CLASS OF 1985** 

Steve Wiederrich

Anonymous (3) Nancy Arstein

Kay Baumeister Ken Chisolm Jeanne Eha Vicki Franzen David Grimm Tom Hagstrom lack Henris John Heying Dennis Hulm

Eric Johnson Doug Junker\* Toni Logar Terry Matuska Ioel Nieland Barb Nielsen

Dennis Olheiser **Brad Pekas** Laura Pike Tim Pike

Rocky Pray Rob Sayler Mike Spilde Julie Thompson Jeffrey Weiland Lisa Zacher

Todd Zweifel

Anonymous (2) **Todd Brewster** Todd Brick Julie Carver David Christensen David Coble DeDe Crough Dave Crumrine Dan Driscoll Tom Durkin Darryl Feterl Ahmad Ghassemi **Greg Goldey** Thomas Gondolfi Bill Heid Brent Jacobs Kathy Johnson Kari Karst John Konechne Deepak Malhotra Jim Miller

II Pirtle

Tim Renner Randy Reynolds Keith Whites

**CLASS OF 1987** Jerry Afdahl Tom Albrecht Anonymous (4) **Sharon Chontos Neal Coddington** Bastiaan Cornelissen Ann Curnow Keith Curry Roman Estrada Terry Frank Loyd Garrison Kevin Griese Gary Hu Tim Klaus Steven Korn Gina Kostelecky-Shankle Ray Leahy Louie Lu Tim Reuer Tim Shumaker Pat Slowey Donna Speirs-Shaw

#### **CLASS OF 1986**

Larry Zeller **CLASS OF 1988** Laurel Alexander Gary Braddock Jay Cass Reiji Cass Kent Hoisington Jim Hunkins Rick Kelley Renita Mollman Joe Pekarek **David Rynders Shannon Thornburg** Venkat Venkatasamy

Karl Steffes

Mike Werdel

Ning-Sheng Tao

#### **CLASS OF 1989**

Vijay Ayyangar Sundar Christopher

Barbara Gwinn-Edwards Dean Harts Zane Huffman Jim Jung Lance LeTellier lim Nelson Lisa Rynders Jackie Sargent Johnnie Shockley Sam Wegehaupt Kelly Whiting Lorie Whiting

**CLASS OF 1990** Keith Beck leanne Berg Paul Cameron Ma Cheng Ruby Cooper Scott Durgin Dan Flynn Kory Gill **Chuck Hewitt** Sean Horton Donna Kliche Kevin Kolda Steve Lang Yan Lu Mahesh Mikkilineni Todd Person

Foster Sawyer

Dean Stoick

**CLASS OF 1991** Wendy Allison Barbara Bechstein Rachel Benton Dave Carda Brian Fox Rich Hardegger\* Aaron Lalley Peter Morris **Eve Norton** Steve Ochsner Margaret Parmenter Trent Pulis

#### Liping Zhang

Lisa Warne

Jin Xiang

**CLASS OF 1992** Thad Allen Anonymous (3) Rick Baruth John Childs Dan Herbst Rob Huber Eric Jin Brad Johnson Keith Johnson Jack Liang Susan Moore Scott Nab **Gary Norton** 'Ove' Oveson

Bruce Ring Michael Sailer Shane Vernon Linhua Zhao Weixin Zhou

Anonymous (2)

Chris Kruschke Nikki Mathis

Tony Rea Liz Sailer Jeramy Spicer

Pat Carver

Peter Collins

Danny Sparling

**CLASS OF 1993** 

Lisa Durgin Baron Fidler Darren Gebhart Dave Gildemeister Dara Hartmann

Kermit Velder

**CLASS OF 1994** Anonymous Tim Burttram

Ligiang Chen Teresa Gildemeister Steven Griggs David Hartmann John Henderson Dewayne Hibbert

Brian Jenner

Derek Knapp John Ludeman Jerry Mealman Dave Muck Jay Peppel Kalli Spicer Mark Svitak

Kurtis Williams

**CLASS OF 1995** Anonymous **Julie Erickson** Mark Fahrenbach Holly Hansen Paige Hilton Christopher lundt Stacy Jundt Greg Kondrasuk Trish Ludeman Joe McMurtry Nate Moriarty Manny Penaloza Toni Richardson Chris Savage Avery Schick

**CLASS OF 1996** Wayne Baumberger

Maria Cadwallader

Heather Shoup

Mitch Slusarski

Shawn Swanson

Audra Walsh

Bob Fallbeck Aaron Grinager Karl Hackett Bill Jones Jonna Kandolin Tammy Klein June Knight Zhen Li Keith Plavec Beth Stafford

Abbie Wickersham

Scott Wickersham

Ryan Cadwallader

#### **CLASS OF 1997**

George Arnold Kristine Barbieri Jason Erickson lason Fink Josh Goddard Jeremy Johannesen Jason Jorgenson Brandon Kandolin Chris Kinney Chris Klein Greg Kruse Rebecca Pope Matt Potts Mike Ray Allison Schauer Missy Tille Jay Van Hove **Todd Youngman** 

#### **MATCHING GIFT COMPANIES/FOUNDATIONS**

Krishna Prasad

A total of \$148,660.78 was given by matching gifts from 51 companies in FY25. Companies that gave \$1,000 or more, July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025

Abbott Laboratories Fund **Ball Corporation** Bechtel Group Foundation **Boeing Company Booz Allen Hamilton Corporation** Broadcom Inc. Cadence Design Systems Caterpillar Inc. Chevron Phillips Chemical Company, LP Dyno Nobel, Inc.

Freeport-McMoRan Foundation Garmin International Halliburton Foundation, Inc. Intel Foundation John Deere Foundation Johnson Controls Foundation Lockheed Martin - Public Affairs Support Services Microsoft Corporation

Raytheon Technologies Shell Oil Company Foundation

Alumni who gave between July 1, 2024, and June 30, 2025

## **Class Giving**

\* Deceased

#### **CLASS OF 1998**

Anonymous Kelly Burgard Shawn Burgard Brian Butterfield Nathan Chupka Tricia Gomulinski Lisa Jorgenson Rita Krebs lana Larson John Lofberg Scott Lyons Chris Misterek Angie Monheim Jen Moriarty Mark Mutziger Jeremy Ochs Ardell Ochsner **Brook Plavec** John Redmond Lance Roberts

#### **CLASS OF 1999**

Chris Wortmann

Thor Thorson

Jason Ash Jake Bartels Kevin Berg Dale Brech Andrea Brickey Chris Brickey Tyler Cruickshank Emily Errea-Berg Greg Hintgen Mike lames Kevin Kinney Zak Ngoma Paul Oien **Brian Picard** Kimberly Pridgeon Jerilyn Roberts

Mike Roth Heidi Sieverding Darrin Tille Marijane White

#### **CLASS OF 2000**

Nate Belcher lason Busch Chuck Cox LeAnn Fechter leff Fleck Wengun Lang Gretchen Lupher Julie Miller Eric Nelson Jennifer Nelson Kemp Ben Short

#### **CLASS OF 2001** Amy Allison

Karen Brady Karen Buerkle Seth Dewey Matthew Fechter Dawn Greenwood Megan Kinney Iordan Larson Val Manes Kristin Molstad Jay Nopola Rogue Richardson Kyle Smith Richard Sudmeier Eric Swanberg Ryan Thompson Jenny Vavra Sara Williamson Don Wishard

#### **CLASS OF 2002**

Anonymous (2) Melinda Applebee Scott Beck Alisha Butterfield Bobbie Hudson Mel Kemp Anne Lamont Jason Lamont Erin Landguth Jamie Lembke Rajesh Narasimhan Desi Ottmar Anirudh Patel Mark Rinn Steve Snater Ethan Swanson Tim Vavra Xingjun Zhang

CLASS OF 2003 John Abrams Matt Dahl Chris Fischer Steve Gardner Jake Hewett **Greg Hoechst** Michael Huot Nick Koch Heather Merrill Eric Minnaert Matt Pfeifer Mike Pridgeon Steven Smith Nicole Stengle Mike Wood

#### CLASS OF 2004

Sherry Chen Ross Gjerde Katie Henning

Zhengpeng Li **Lindsay Lipps** Nick Newell Chris O'Bryan Eric Sauer Jesse Suek Tony Tegels Tom Warner

#### **CLASS OF 2005**

Louis Arguello Jessica Brooks Cori Burnett David Burnett Ieremiah Cameron Matthew Colvin Ion Cottrill Ben Cutler Bharat Jasthi Matt Moor John Pettyjohn Anne Putnam Becky Reinhardt Tom Severson Pat Wellner

#### **CLASS OF 2006**

Tyler Bergstrom Dan Breitbarth Jon Brooks **David Cousins** Keld Ditlev Wayne Douglas Douglas Hayes Richard Hudson Dusty Johnson **Bobbie Kroetch** Chris Kroetch Tim Lystad Tyler Smeenk Sarah Suek Justin Wenner

#### **CLASS OF 2007**

Adam Bauerle Cassandra Birrenkott Christian Calvert Kelsa Christopher Megan Dangel Gus Hernandez

Joy Mueller Kyrian Onyeukwu Micah Sheldon Isaac Telkamp Miles Wickersham

#### Lindsey Andrews

**CLASS OF 2008** 

Karl Barfuss Eric Brandner Anna Dahl Sterling Greni Rob Herbst Joanna Jacobs Firas Khoury Philip Kolterman Scott Kranz Don Lampert Miranda Larson Rose Luvaas Wes Snaza Chris Vickery lason Wilner

#### **CLASS OF 2009**

Tyler Adler Rusty Batie Janile Bestgen Aaron Guliuzza Michael Haltiner lade Herman Lucas Jacobs Shawn Jacobs Rvan Kroetch Amery Kuhl Shawn McFarland Terri Morford Lisa Quiett Scott Quiett Ben Swan Kumar Veluswamy

#### **CLASS OF 2010**

Anonymous Robyn Brandner Becci Flanders-Paterson Madi Hotovec Nathan Huft Daniel Lye **Brent Morford** 

#### **CLASS OF 2011**

Jerry Bollinger Teneil Dollarhide Andy Smith Katie Toscana Kyle Turpin

**CLASS OF 2012** Alison Baue Chris Dollarhide Jacob Leland Christina McFarland Chris Pellowski Eric Persinger Ian Prichard Jessica Tsingine Reanna Turpin

#### **CLASS OF 2013**

Carlos Beatty Sean Bestgen Kurt Chowanski Kimberly Kays Matthew Keller Jennifer Leberknight Megan Mahowald Jeevan Meruga Sony Meruga Rachel Pekarek Anna Robertson Jeremy Warner Teresa Warner

#### **CLASS OF 2014**

Anonymous Jake Bradley Minda Carpenter **Brian Freed** Lillian Freed Preston Hofer Seth Kijewski Kristy Rennick Carly Sandin Anne Susko Luke Wilson Ben Wolf

#### CLASS OF 2015

Zachary Kroehler Jevin Meyerink Taylor Schoenfelder

#### **CLASS OF 2016** Anonymous

Charlie Bentzen McKenzie Butcher Hannah Cowan Sam Cowan Michael Day Jonathan Dixon Tony Gesualdo Jake Hepp Jeremy Huot Mackenzie Landen Sam LeTempt Tucker Loeffen Robert Miller Jill Olson

Anthony Renteria

Luke Van Gerpen

Mike Ternoey

Kevin Wagner

CLASS OF 2017

Akshay Chowdu

Adelyn Crabtree

Michael Farinelli

Dakota Hendey

Kellan Johnson

Megan Johnson

Chris Kolegraff

Iordan Landen

David Ross

Daniel Shaw

Alex Spilman

**CLASS OF 2018** 

Arjun Ayyangar

Scyller Borglum

Joseph Bauer

Anonymous

Katie Wolf

David Langerman

Diana Peck-Earley

Dakotah Simpson

Darryl Birge

Chris Burks

#### Grant Nelson

CLASS OF 2020 Anonymous Justin Broekemeier Dyson Heizelman Noah Oehlke Steven Pepke Fernando Vazquez **Dustin Williams** Grace Wilson

Sean Earley

Donald Hall

Sean Kittler

Mary Laber

Clint Leeper

**Trevor Mount** 

Carson Purtell

**CLASS OF 2019** 

Connel Bjorkstrand

Aaron Campbell

**Quintan Green** 

Moen-Vazquez

Stefan Aviles

Jordan Beyer

Ryan Bozer

Hannah

Scott Kottkamp

Katherine Giorgio

**CLASS OF 2021** Anthony Benitez Mikayla Broekemeier Thomas Engelmann Lance Garrett David Janssen Brennan Lamoreaux Abby Magee CLASS OF 2022

Cody Allen Kevin Baltzer Zachary Basham Tim Dunham Tanvi Govil Samuel Hagen Kole Pickner Jordan Reed

Kaleb Roth

Chance Schisler Allan Sipos Anders Stenstadvolden Casey Strong Kelsey Webb

#### **CLASS OF 2023**

Otutoa Afu **Anonymous** Colin Bertsch **Judith Buaba** lan Cone Brett Flerchinger Henry Fritzler Alex Lacroix Zhengqiang Li Juwon Olowonigba Emma Soehl

#### Bryce Ulrich

**CLASS OF 2024** Anonymous (3) **Britton Carver** Samuel Elliott Devon Heilman Zachariah Hentschel Max Hoatson Taylor Hojer Jay Horning Reid Kaiser Cecilia Kouri Megan Major Rvan McSwain Oliver Schwab Ellie Smith Brent Snyder Jaycie Stubbs

Adeline Wilson

#### **CLASS OF 2025**

Anonymous Jakob Callenius Joseph Cremer Noah Dwyer Gabriel Papiernik Brianna Powell Jacob Schwab Keegan Tandy

For a complete list of friends and donors to South Dakota Mines, visit our website



Alumni who gave between July 1, 2024, and June 30, 2025

Fawen Zheng

Matt Zolnowsky

## Friends of South Dakota Mines

Friends who gave \$500 or more July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025

\* Deceased

Prema Abraham Iohn Adams Sandra Addy Stacy Amicarelli Alan Anderson leff Anderson Barbara Annan Anonymous Leslie Armstrong Galen Bartling Jennifer Baumberger Theresa Bell Dianna Boehner **Judy Bonds** Cliff Brandon Cynthia Bratberg Erik & Nina Braun Ken Brown\* Gloria Bump Pat & Lucy Burchill Eric Busch Carolyn Buyse Paul & Annette Carlevato Iulia & Aaron Carlson Donna Cash George Cerumuga Kari Charron Leap Chear **Bob Chin** Michael Christman leb H. Clarkson Ginger Coleton John Corkill Deanna & Ryan Custer

Lyle & Dorothy Feisel Gary & Jane Fick Stanley Figus Ed & Deborah Fisch Ann Flynn Barbara FUNd Kristi & Mike Gilsdorf Sundra Girard Sharon Goeres Sid & Diane Goss Nancy Gowen Connie Green Lisa Griebel Gary & Connie Grittner Carl Gruber April Gustafson Jennifer & Darren Haar Pat Hall Jim & Betsy Hamel Jess Hastings Philip & Susan Henderson Tony & Erin Hericks Henry Houh Patty Howe lim & Laura Hunt Christopher & Lisa Huot Marilyn Jackson & Keith Eckert Dean & Iulie Iensen Evan Johnson Jennifer Johnson Kathleen Kane Renae Kelderman Richard & Kathryn Keller Roger & Janice Knutsen Donald Konechne Glen & Ardie Koppelman

lessica Kranz

Lynn Lakso Nedra & Mike Larson Matt Leonard Karen Lewin Margaret A Luza Robert & Diane Malone De Maris Mathison Dave & Debbie McEuen Becky Miesen Lori & Quinten Miklos Mary Jo Moen Marilyn Mohrman Robert & Robin Nardi Kelvin Nieman Mary Ann Noziska Laura Orville Camille Outlaw Colin Paterson Fern Paul-Aviles Donna Perry Tom & Mary Pfeifle Aaron & Lauren Prochazka Jan & Margaret Puszynski V. Ramakrishnan David Raske Cynthia Reiner Kris Ripperda Vincent Rossi Debra Ruehlman Steve Sattler Gerrit Scheepers Diane & Richard Schnee leff Schroeder Ron Schuler **Jared Scofield** Kandy Smith

Tiffany Smith

Erik Sorbo

Lee Swent Roberta Takle Rene Tiede John VanSickle Robert & Kathleen Waterman Ashley Weightman Libby Wethington Susan Wheeler Karen Whitehead **Emily Wickersham** Taylor Wickersham Heather Wilson & Jay Hone Roger & Dianne Wilson Iane Withee Talicia Woodard Peyton Yates Joan & James Yeash

John Spangler

Chris Swan

Justin Young

Dennis Stockwell

## Faculty & Staff Donors

Faculty and staff who gave \$250 or more July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025

Ivy & Stan Allard
Laurie Anderson
Anonymous (2)
Amanda Barnes
Nate Belcher (ME 2000)
Audrey Boehm
Mark Bowron
Ann Brentlinger
Andrea Brickey (MinE 99)
Darcy Briggs
Brian Butterfield (CEng 98)
Michelle Chikos

Cindy Davies
Joseph Dlugos
Jo Dwyer
Bailey Ellis
Shelli & Aaron
Grinager (IE 96)
Robert Hall
Nicole Haltiner
Cory Headley
Dan Heglund
Jade Herman (IS 2009)

Dean Jensen
Brad Johnson (EE 92)
Kurt Katzenstein
Jon Kellar (MetE 84)
Carter Kerk
Marlin Kinzer
Kyle Knight
Ardell Knudson
Connie Krosschell
Pierre Larochelle
Leah Mahoney (GeolE 80)
Timothy Masterlark

Jerilyn Roberts (ChE 99) Lance Roberts (CE 98) Richard Schnee Darren Schwede Cassie Schweigerdt Larry Simonson (EE 69) Steve Smith William Spindle Frank Strieder Brian Tande **Donald Teets** Shannon Thornburg (ME 88) Marc Vaillancourt Frank Van Nuys Kharla Vock lim Wilson Zhengtao Zhu & Yan Zhang

Maribeth Price

## Mines Advancement Fund

Together, we create opportunities. Together, we build the future.

Financial need is the number one reason students turn down admission to Mines. Your gift to the Mines Advancement Fund helps break down that barrier.



Every contribution makes an impact:

More scholarships for deserving students

Cutting-edge equipment and technology in our labs

Expanded and renovated facilities for learning and discovery



YOUR GENEROSITY ENSURES EVERY HARDROCKER HAS THE TOOLS TO SUCCEED.

Ron Delka

Cleon Diers

Richard & Rachel Edelen

Dick & Chris Everett



## Save the Date Raising for Rockers 2026

February 18–19 | Noon to Noon

South Dakota Mines' signature giving day is back! For 24 hours, Hardrockers everywhere will unite to support our academic departments.

Each department selects a project to directly support their students, whether it's promoting hands-on learning experiences, creating vibrant learning environments, or building community.



Every gift matters. Every department benefits. Together, we raise the bar for Hardrocker success.