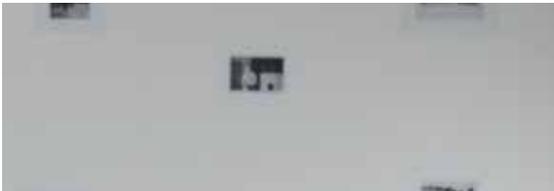


YOUR 2018-19 IMPACT REPORT



Thank you for your generosity.



Internships are gold to today's students. You make them happen.

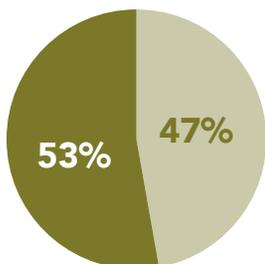


Learn how your support is helping students like Ricky Oropeza '20 discover their passions through internships.

Sixty-seven percent of the Class of 2019 reported having at least one meaningful internship or research experience during their time at Willamette — a **12% increase over the previous year**. Your support plays a critical role in meeting that need.



Both **Annual Fund support and named internship funds have doubled the number of internship funds available**. Out of the 55 students who applied during the 2018-2019 school year, these funds supported 28 students.



53% of students who applied during the 2018-2019 school year received internship funds.

"We are so pleased to have these donor-supported funds available to our students," says Mandy Devereux, career development director, College of Liberal Arts. **"These funds allow students to gain meaningful and often transformational experiences they may not otherwise be able to afford to do."**

With more "Only at Willamette" opportunities for internships and research, we want to make sure that no student is shut out of this transformational experience. With your help, we can continue to grow our internship and research programs.

An out-of-this-world experience

When Ricky Oropeza '20 began his internship in the summer of 2019, he had already studied some of the smallest objects known to science. Now he is setting his sights on something much bigger: the Universe itself.

In 2018, with support from the Catherine D. Lutz Internship Fund, Ricky studied tiny subatomic particles at Wayne State University in Detroit.

"It let me focus on the research without having to worry," he says. "I could dive into the whole experience and truly commit to the life of a theoretical physicist."

But it wasn't until a year later that Ricky saw the connection between his interest in particle physics and what has become his senior thesis topic: testing the standard cosmological model of the Universe.

"The standard model of how the scientific community understands the Universe has shown inconsistencies," Ricky says. "So we have to look into it further to better understand how the Universe functions."



A second research internship, supported by the Janelle (Duyck) Bovell '08 Non-Profit Internship Fund, gave Ricky the chance to spend a summer working one-on-one with his advisor, physics professor Rick Watkins. Ricky helped push the boundaries of how physicists do their work. Complex computing processes that previously took 30 minutes or longer can now be done in 30 seconds.



Building leaders

Reflecting on his internships, Ricky says the experience made an unexpected impact: he learned how to talk about his research in new ways and took opportunities to lead and teach others.

At formal presentations during Alumni Reunion Weekend, a local astronomy club gathering, and with a class of high school students in the Willamette Academy program, he recently shared the stage with Professor Watkins to talk about their work.

Though theoretical physics isn't a simple topic to explain, Ricky says his internship taught him how to lead others through complex material.

"I felt so much relief after doing those talks," he says. "By the time I got to the third talk, I felt confident. Now, I can break down complexity and tell them, 'here's what you need to know.'"

"I'll be applying to graduate programs this year and I know that having these experiences will definitely enable me to stand out."

Donor gives students and Salem a window to the world at the Hallie Ford Museum of Art

Art lover and education advocate **Lynn Ackerman '71** is making a commitment to help introduce future generations of students to powerful cultural experiences at Hallie Ford.

On a guided tour of Willamette's Hallie Ford Museum of Art, Lynn (Callender) Ackerman '71 moves from one exhibit to the next, in awe of the talent behind the works on display. In one gallery, she takes a moment to admire a 20-foot-long row of larger-than-life ceramic mariachi band players. In another, as she passes a wall of paintings, she steps up close to absorb the details.



"I can't even draw stick figures," she says, laughing about her own lack of artistic skill. "But I love to see what others can do."

While not an artist herself, the retired sales and marketing executive understands the importance of access to the arts, and to education in general. That's why — even though Lynn was not previously a member of the museum — she has arranged for an estate bequest to support the Hallie Ford Museum of Art. **Her hope is that this will help give future generations of Willamette students and members of the Salem community a window to cultures other than their own.**

"It's not just the arts," Lynn says about the mission behind her gift to the museum. "I'm even more interested in encouraging people to go to school."

As the daughter of Depression-era parents who couldn't afford to attend college, Lynn felt the value of education early on. She was grateful to be able to attend Willamette with help from family and a scholarship through the Methodist Church. Lynn majored in sociology, but quickly found a love for art after studying abroad.

"I spent one term in London and one term in Paris. Art history classes were held in museums like the British Museum and the Jeu de Paume. Learning by viewing actual paintings rather than slides or photos was a life changing experience."

"To me, the value of a liberal arts education is getting exposure to opportunities and culture you otherwise wouldn't."

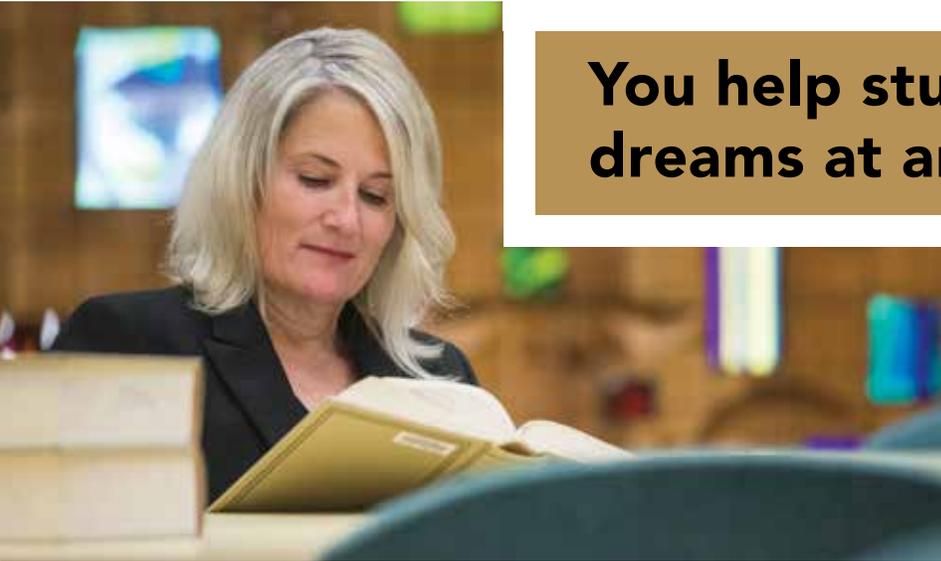
-Lynn Ackerman '71

Since then, Lynn's philanthropic goal has been to give others the same transformational experience she had while attending Willamette. With her estate bequest to Hallie Ford, she will leave a lasting legacy. **Along with providing for tours, lectures, classes, workshops and even bus transportation for grade school children to the museum, her gift will also allocate funding for aspiring student artists.**

"To me, the value of a liberal arts education is getting exposure to opportunities and culture you otherwise wouldn't. It helped me in my profession, not only because I had a degree, but because I had gone through this experience."



Photo credit: Dale M. Peterson



You help students realize their dreams at any stage in life

After working in various professional fields for more than 25 years, Tamara Palmer JD'21 wanted to attend law school — **and you made it possible.**

Changing careers can be extremely difficult and stressful — not just emotionally, but financially, too. Tamara Palmer JD'21 knows this because she's in the midst of making a bold career change for the second time. A former chemist, lab analyst and high school math teacher, Tamara is now in her second year at Willamette University College of Law, working toward a dream made possible by scholarships.

"From the time I was accepted, I was trying to figure out if attending Willamette Law would be financially feasible and worth the risk of leaving my teaching position," Tamara says. **"When I found out that Willamette had increased my scholarship, I burst into tears. I had been praying that a nearly 100% scholarship was possible."**

Because of your support, Tamara had the opportunity to apply for and earn both the Dean's Scholarship and the Business Lawyering Institute Scholarship. With that financial burden lifted, she's now able to focus on her goal of graduating in 2021.

"I don't want the experience to go by too fast, but I am looking forward to passing the patent bar and the Oregon bar exam and becoming a real attorney!"

Embracing a new challenge

Like most law students, Tamara loves a challenge. But unlike most, she already has plenty of real-world experience in taking them on.

As a quality assurance program manager and senior laboratory analyst for the City of Portland Water Bureau, she was tasked with solving a diverse range of environmental and natural resource problems. As a high school math teacher with the Estacada School District, she developed pedagogical practices to support each and every one of her students. But all the while, she still felt compelled to tackle a new challenge by entering the law field.

"Legal issues were always a part of my experiences as a scientist and as an educator, and I found them interesting, complex, multi-layered, and challenging," Tamara says. "I knew that I wanted to continue learning, and the idea of going to law school kept coming to mind persistently throughout my career."



Using power for good — from the classroom to the courtroom

While Tamara was drawn to law school for the opportunity to learn and develop new analytical skills, she also sees becoming a lawyer as a way to help others and give back to her community.

“In my old classroom, I had a sign that read: ‘Use Your Power for Good.’ Willamette Law really embodies this philosophy by giving non-traditional students like me the opportunity to develop the critical-thinking skills, the ability to reason and to listen to diverse perspectives, and the desire to contribute positively to society.”

Being open to a new path

Based on her previous positions, Tamara knows there are areas of law in which she could grow and succeed (education, patent, environmental), but she also feels that real success means taking this opportunity to explore, discover and find her true calling.

“I am keeping my heart open and seeing where my path takes me,” Tamara says. “I want to honor the people and experiences that made it possible for me to be on this journey by making the most of all opportunities.”



A Thank You from Tamara

“I hope you know how much your kindness and generosity have impacted students at Willamette. I imagine it might be like being a teacher: you don’t ever really know if you are making a difference unless someone specifically tells you. As a result of your generosity, every student who is able to attend Willamette University College of Law has been forever influenced.”

You create real-world learning opportunities



Zach Dyne with Elizabeth Hartman '18, MBA'19

You help students put their management education to the test with real stakes and real organizations.

Because of you, the Atkinson Graduate School of Management can be the gold standard for unique experiential learning opportunities. Your support of innovative programs like Practical Applications for Career and Enterprise (PACE) and Philanthropic Investment for Community Impact help Atkinson students take their management skills out of the classroom to serve real community organizations.

PACE students spend six months consulting with not-for-profit organizations, where they gain valuable leadership, organizational and communication skills. **Willamette MBA alumni often cite PACE as one of the most transformative aspects of their MBA experience.**

These programs raise the stakes for Atkinson students by putting them on a team dedicated to solving an organization's biggest challenges in marketing, accounting, human resources and more.



A change in mindset

For Zach Dyne '19, MBA'20, the PACE program required a profound change in mindset. As a student in the Willamette BA-MBA dual-degree program, Zach came to Atkinson equipped with a strong liberal arts foundation. But what he didn't have was experience managing a complex team project where his decisions have real-life consequences.

"If I'm reading a balance sheet for a class, and make a mistake, I learn," Zach says. "But if the organization makes a decision based on a calculation I did wrong, then I can steer them in the wrong direction."

To serve his client, Zach was challenged to think on his feet.

"We had to develop whatever skills were called for by the project — no matter whether you call yourself a marketer or an accountant."

Management tools for any sector

Zach says that experiences like PACE will give him the valuable tools he needs to differentiate himself in his chosen field.

"My career goal is to work in data science and analytics," Zach says. "Many of the people in that space come from computer science or engineering. But the unique experience I get to bring is understanding how the work that we're doing fits into the broader context of an organization."

By supporting Atkinson, you create the next generation of public and private sector leaders whose impacts will be felt throughout the Pacific Northwest and beyond. "You're not just providing opportunities for students to better themselves," Zach says. "People at Atkinson really want to take that support and do something better for the world."



By supporting Atkinson, you create the next generation of public and private sector leaders.

Your impact

OUR COMMUNITY OF DONORS

6,676 Donors

820 First Time Donors

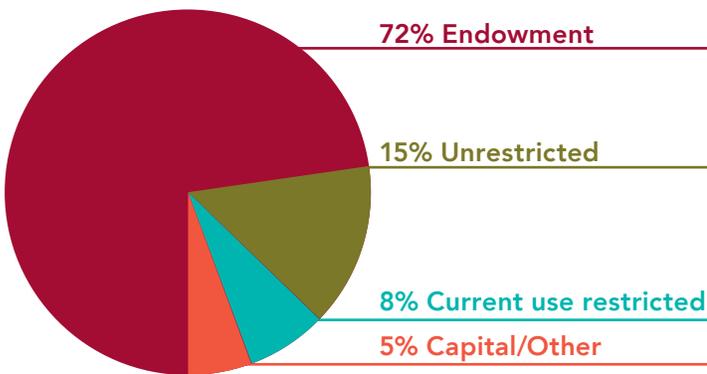
More than 170 students gave back as a part of their student class campaign, beginning their lifelong connection with Willamette through philanthropy.

Volunteers

More than 800 alumni, parents, and friends gave of their time and talent during the 2018-19 school year.

THE IMPACT OF YOUR GIFTS

Percentage raised by designation

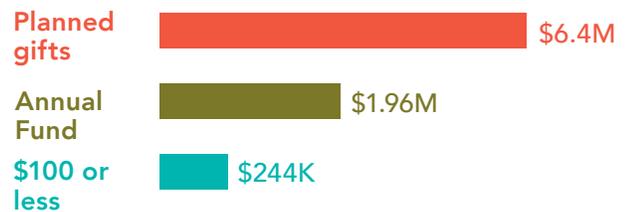


77% of gifts received were \$100 or less.

62% Alumni
18% Parents
13% Friends
3% Corporations /Foundations
2% Faculty & Staff



\$13.4M Raised



Impact of the Annual Fund

Thank you for your continued support and for making 2019 the highest fundraising year ever for the Annual Fund. The Annual Fund makes an immediate impact. The dollars raised this year are equivalent to the spending distribution of a \$40M endowment.

You make it possible for students to discover their passions



Meaningful research experiences are a core component of the Willamette undergraduate curriculum. Whether it's in the lab or in the field, students and faculty are working together on research that addresses 21st century challenges including climate change.

With your support, Willamette students are getting the chance to experience specific hands-on training in their fields of interest. In addition to research grants, you also support undergraduate scholarships, which are crucial to attracting and retaining Willamette's top-tier students.

Through unique research opportunities, **students are following their pathways to success.**

You gave Madi the chance to dig deep for sustainable solutions

Madi Nigro '20 took full advantage of Willamette's liberal arts program to supplement her environmental science coursework with interdisciplinary studies in chemistry and politics.

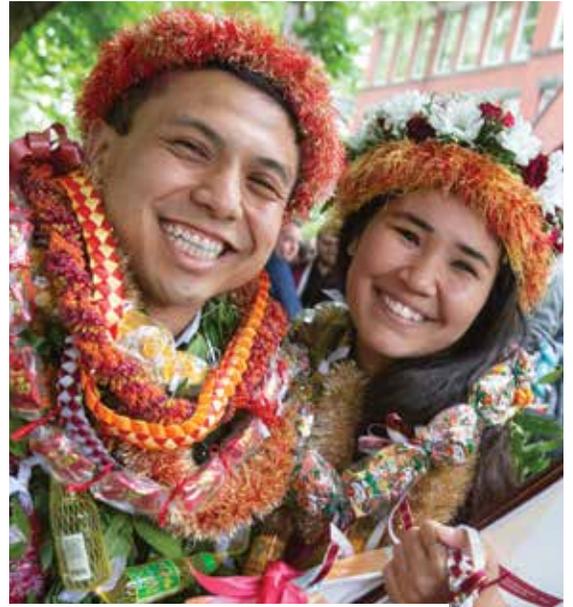
"The future of environmental science is with collaborative management," she says, "so it is important to have participation or knowledge from other studies."

Many environmental science courses have also been recently restructured to include more hands-on learning opportunities, such as weekly trips to the 305 acres of ecologically-diverse forest and farmland at Zena.

Last summer, Madi received a research grant to do field work in Scotland. While her classmates performed an archaeology field study, Madi analyzed the collection samples in the lab with her professor.

For Madi, this intensive lab and field work proved to be a career crystallizing experience. She will graduate a semester early and plans on earning a master's in ecological restoration and natural resource management, to create a sustainable world for future generations.

Your generosity changes lives.



THANK YOU



Office of Donor Relations and Stewardship
900 State Street, Salem, Oregon 97301

503-370-6054 | donor-relations@willamette.edu