



# Laying the Foundation

The Impact of Philanthropy at Southern Arkansas University



Southern Arkansas University™  
**FOUNDATION**



Together, we have accomplished something amazing. Through the Love and Loyalty Campaign, we surpassed the largest five-year fundraising goal in our history, raising more than \$29.7 million to benefit student enrichment, academic programs, faculty and staff support, student life and community enrichment, and athletics.

Through private giving to Southern Arkansas University Foundation, coupled with the prudent investment and management by the SAU Foundation Board of Governors, our endowment has grown to more than \$50 million. This ensures that SAU has the resources necessary to provide annual income for scholarships, student travel, classroom enrichment, professorships, and athletics laying a firm foundation for a bright future for our University.

If you have questions regarding this report, please contact us at [saufoundation.org](http://saufoundation.org) or (870) 235-4078. Your generosity and impact will echo across generations.

Trey Berry  
President, Southern Arkansas University

Jennifer Pierce '98  
Chair, SAU Foundation Board of Governors



SAU Foundation Board of Governors

Southern Arkansas University

LOVE

AND

LOYALTY

Campaign

Campaign Began October 2016

\$22,275,000

- Campaign Goal

\$29,722,178

- Total Raised (133% of goal)

4,188

- Donors

17,023

- Gifts



Campaign Facts:

82%+

Faculty/Staff Giving Percentage

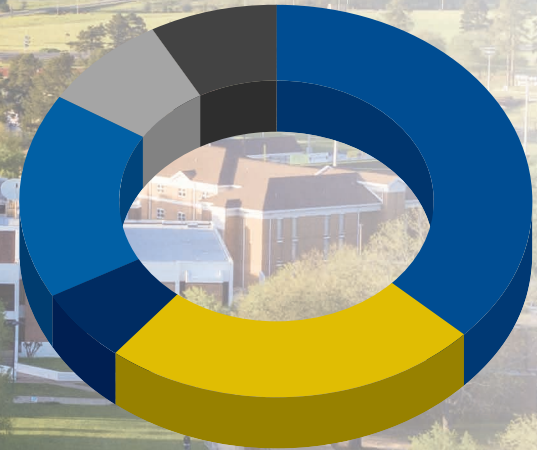
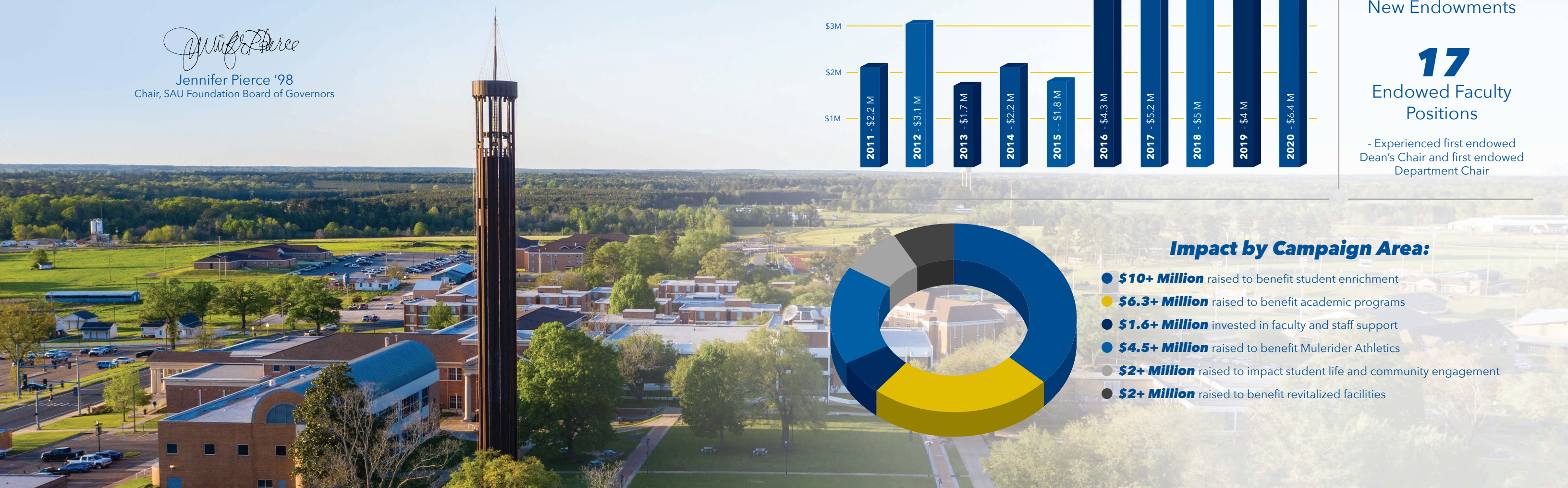
100+

New Endowments

17

Endowed Faculty Positions

- Experienced first endowed Dean's Chair and first endowed Department Chair



- Impact by Campaign Area:**
- **\$10+ Million** raised to benefit student enrichment
  - **\$6.3+ Million** raised to benefit academic programs
  - **\$1.6+ Million** invested in faculty and staff support
  - **\$4.5+ Million** raised to benefit Mulerider Athletics
  - **\$2+ Million** raised to impact student life and community engagement
  - **\$2+ Million** raised to benefit revitalized facilities



# Student Enrichment

Scholarship donors help SAU move forward with confidence, providing life-changing experiences for students and helping to advance knowledge to create a better future. In addition to enabling students with financial needs to remain in school, scholarship endowments allow SAU to attract the highest caliber of students.

Stacy Lawrence is an outstanding example of the many high caliber Muleriders who are creating a better future for all Americans. During his time at SAU, Stacy earned his bachelor's of science in chemistry ('17) and engineering ('21), as well as an MBA ('20). Following graduation earlier this year, he started work in aerospace engineering. In July 2020, Stacy began pursuing another lifelong dream: becoming an Apache helicopter pilot in the United States Army.

Lessons learned at SAU allowed Stacy to enter Army Officer Candidate School feeling that he was prepared for anything. Leadership skills acquired at SAU gave him what he describes as a good foundation and set him ahead.

The decision to join the Army didn't make sense for many. Stacy's response is that he knows the path isn't easy, but he doesn't fear failure—he fears missed opportunity! In November, he seized another opportunity when he graduated Army OCS. Next on his agenda is to focus simply on what's in front of him: flight school.

Generosity is strengthening SAU and her students now and will continue to do so for generations to come.



Lawrence and his mentor at his recent officer school graduation.



## Faculty & Staff Support

### First Endowed Professorship in College of Education at SAU

#### The College of Education Alumni Professorship Endowment – what does that mean, exactly?

A professorship is the highest academic award a university can bestow on a faculty member. A professorship is supported by a permanent endowment and, therefore, has additional resources to draw on to recruit and retain the highest quality faculty and promote excellence in the college. Alumni of the SAU College of Education created the unique opportunity that will impact the lives of generations of educators.

#### Professorships by College:

**6**  
College of Science and Engineering

**1**  
College of Education and Human Performance

**1**  
College of Liberal and Performing Arts

**9**  
Rankin College of Business



The professorship is the College of Education's first named professorship, and in 2020, the professorship was filled by an educational leader: Dr. Neelie Dobbins (pictured, left).

Dr. Dobbins says that she is honored not only to serve as the inaugural College of Education Alumni Professor but also by the trust placed in her by SAU. "Our alumni's legacy in the region is incredibly motivating," she says. "It's an honor to draw on the energy of their education experience and vision."

Dr. Dobbins has been teaching at SAU for 11 years, chaired the Department of Teacher Education since 2015, and served as the department's accreditation coordinator since 2017. Her research record includes numerous journal publications and presentations at local, state, regional, and national conferences.





# Academic Programs

*Meeting the needs of the region ... hands on*

Southern Arkansas University's roots are deep in agriculture. At SAU, hands-on learning is integrated into the new poultry science curriculum and is fundamental to meeting the needs of the state and region.

Arkansas' leading agriculture industry is poultry, and it adds \$16 billion to the state's economy each year. When the regional poultry industry expressed the need for graduates equipped to work in the field, SAU responded. The First Financial Bank Poultry Education Facility allows students and faculty to experience each stage of poultry production. The state-of-the-art facility includes all facets of poultry production, from breeders to a hatchery and broilers to processing. The addition of this new academic program uniquely positions SAU to prepare a trained workforce that will feed the world.

Through the Love and Loyalty Campaign, generous donors partnered with the University through private funding to ensure that a hands-on poultry education was possible.



## Farmers Bank & Trust Trap Shooting Range

— and Robert Allen Loe Clubhouse —

A "Pull" for Students and Visitors



In the summer of 2019, Southern Arkansas University added a trap shooting team due to the increasing popularity among youth and high school students in the state and region. This was followed by the Farmers Bank & Trust Trap Shooting Range and the Robert Allen Loe Clubhouse, which were funded through the Love and Loyalty Campaign.

This new facility has attracted students to SAU and has become a home for regional high school trap teams: Magnolia, Columbia Christian, and Emerson-Taylor-Bradley. Area schools have also hosted AYSSP (Arkansas Youth Shooting Sports Program) events, bringing hundreds of prospective students to Mulerider Country. Since announcing this addition, the University has experienced interest of students from New York, Alabama, Missouri, Tennessee, Minnesota, South Dakota, California, Arkansas, Texas, Oklahoma, and Louisiana. This fall, SAU's team is made up of 35 students pursuing a college degree while also having the opportunity to compete at the next level.

SAU's new trap team has also garnered state-wide attention by bringing events such as the Farmers Bank Foundation Trapshoot Tournament to benefit the Arkansas Game and Fish Foundation, drawing visitors from all around the region to Magnolia.

The University looks to build upon these early partnerships to increase the number of events hosted at this facility, as well as to continue to explore opportunities to expand the facility.





# Renovations & New Facilities

Oliver Band Hall Expansion



College of Education/Model Classroom



Bussey Hall Renovation







# DAWSON ATHLETIC COMPLEX

When the Love and Loyalty Campaign began in the fall of 2016, the idea of having an indoor practice facility was only a dream for Mulerider Athletics.

The competitive nature of recruiting prospective student-athletes increased the need for a multipurpose facility. Serving as a critical space for all fourteen Mulerider Athletic sports during inclement weather, it is already making an immediate impact on the competitive experience of SAU's 450 student-athletes, coaches, and administrators.

Overall the 33,250 square-foot facility features a 60-yard turfed field with field markings for multiple sports and state-of-the-art LED lighting. The facility is conveniently located directly to the east of Wilkins Stadium at Rip Powell Field.

The facility is named the Dawson Athletic Complex in honor of the Charles Dawson Family, ('96), who made the lead gift.



## The Impact of Planned Giving

Equipping Muleriders with the education they need to advance in a "biological world" inspired Allen Loe '78 to leave a legacy through a planned gift benefiting the Biology Department of Southern Arkansas University. "SAU is where it all started," Loe said. "A thriving Biology Department at SAU is very important."

Loe, a resident of Columbia, La., graduated from Prescott High School in 1972. After working briefly in construction, he realized how strongly he felt about going to college. He chose SAU because it "felt like the place to be. Several of my family members attended, and I had an aunt and uncle in Magnolia." As a Mulerider, Loe was exposed to a wide range of academic offerings that shaped and molded his abilities.

"I learned how to move around in the world, I learned how to associate with people, make friends, and come to class on time. It jump-started me. I wouldn't be who I am today without SAU," said Loe.

As a biology major, Loe was inspired by Dr. Henry Robison and also Coach Rip Powell. "I played high school football but did not consider myself a college-quality athlete," he said. "During a water safety class, Coach Powell saw something in me I had not recognized. He is one of the people who allowed me to look deeper into myself and see there are other phases of a personality besides what you think is there."

Dr. Robison served as an inspirational professor and mentor. Loe recalled the numerous field trips Robison provided for students. "We'd drive across the state of Arkansas, from the bayou to the mountains. Those trips were a 24-hour classroom. We'd leave on Friday at 5:00, and unload on the steps of Overstreet late Sunday night. He showed me how the biological world hooks together."

Dr. Martha Forgey also provided life-long lessons that served Loe well in his career. "I have spoken before the New York City Council, been on the cover of *USA Today*, and I have been in front of media across the U.S., without freezing up, because she taught me how to speak and write professionally."

After SAU and graduate school, Loe teamed with fellow Muleriders, Dr. Matt Evans, and Kerry Bourne, to start their own biology-based company, Vector Disease Control, originally

based in England, Arkansas. "We started with one \$40,000 contract," Loe said, "and grew from there."

Vector provides mosquito abatement, surveillance, and disease-monitoring services. By 2005, the company operated in 23 states, three countries, employed 350 people, and owned a fleet of trucks and airplanes. "We specialized in the public-health aspect of mosquito control," Loe said, noting the company worked closely with FEMA, the Center for Disease Control, and state and local health departments. He was the company's owner and president until 2011.

Loe now divides his time between Teton County, Idaho, and a hunting/fishing lodge in Louisiana, which he originally purchased with Dr. Evans, who passed away in 2007. "We actively grow rice, soybeans, and do guided hunts in the winter," Loe said of his farm.

After reconnecting with the campus and talking with SAU President Dr. Trey Berry, Loe decided to include the Biology Department at SAU in his estate plans.

"I'm excited," he said. "I hope the benefit will be long-lasting and worthwhile to students. I love what the university means to south Arkansas. The growth there is just so exciting to be part of."

The impact of Loe's legacy will be realized through a scholarship endowment named for Dr. Matt Evans. Dr. Evans was a longtime friend from Smackover, Arkansas, and served as a family physician for many years. The scholarship will benefit a pre-med student. Loe will also fund a scholarship endowment in honor of Dr. Robison, benefiting a biology student.

"I hope the Robison endowment will reach a student who walks into that science building and realizes how important biology is," Loe explained. "I want them to get excited about forestry or fisheries or wildlife, or any of those sciences."

The remainder of his estate gift will provide overall support to the Biology Department. "We all live in a biological world," Loe said. "We hear about global warming, but people forget where our food and water come from, and the micro-habitats and microsystems that make everything work."

Educating future scientists is key to Loe's vision. Thanks to his generosity, SAU will fulfill that need for many generations to come.



Allen Loe '78

**Impact of Planned Giving During the Love and Loyalty Campaign:**

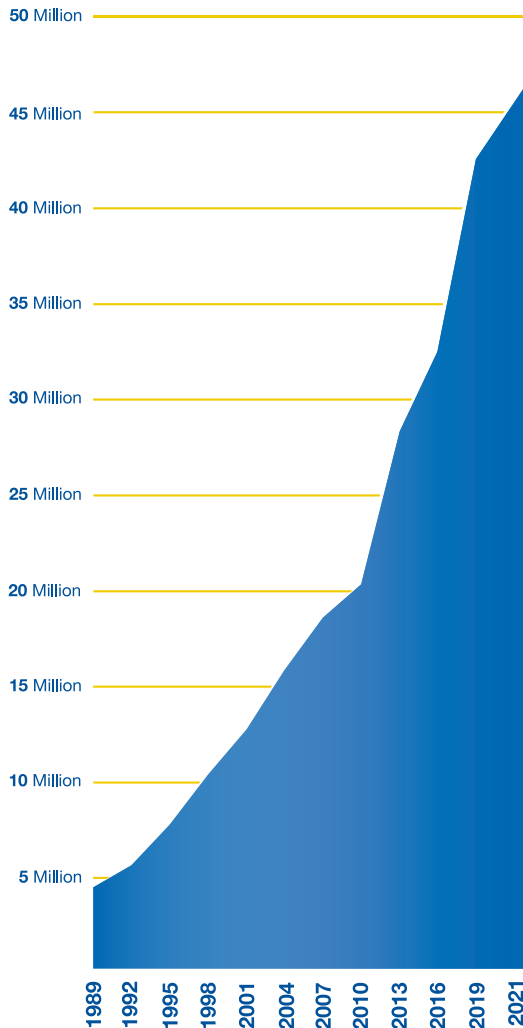
**31**  
Donors

**\$10.7 Million**  
in Contributions

**36%**  
of Campaign Total



## Endowment Growth

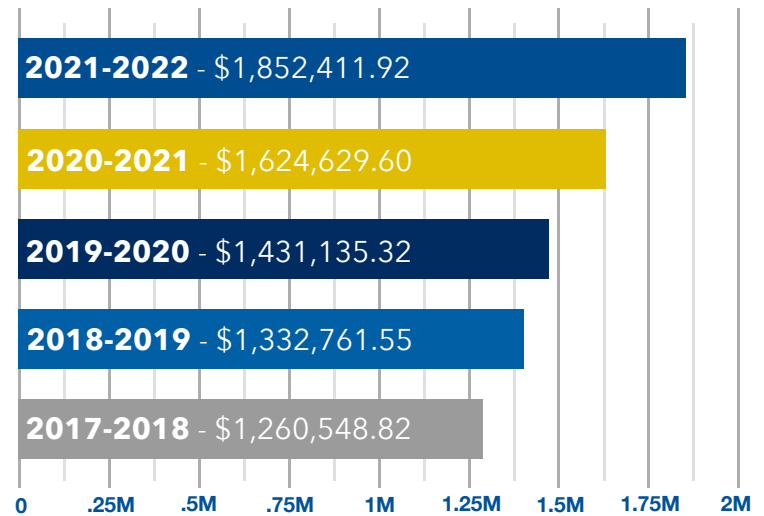


1989	\$4,221,316.00
1992	\$5,419,544.00
1995	\$7,582,680.00
1998	\$10,104,432.00
2001	\$12,468,231.00
2004	\$15,641,814.00
2007	\$18,339,419.00
2010	\$20,027,222.00
2013	\$28,090,194.00
2016	\$32,201,797.00
2017	\$37,524,608.25
2018	\$34,796,144.03
2019	\$42,259,913.92
2020	\$46,030,977.87

**939 Endowed Funds**

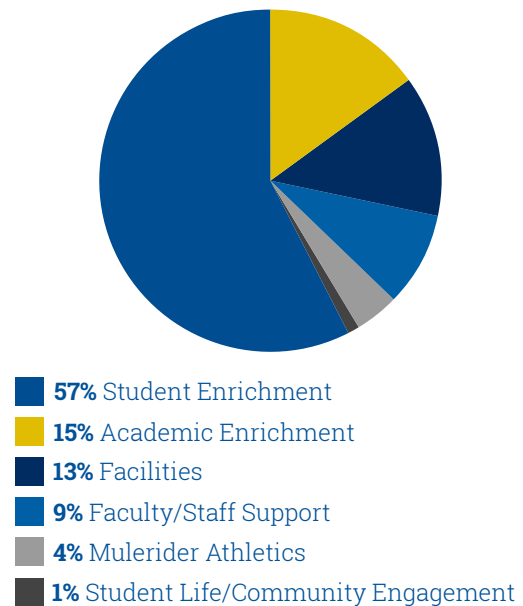
## 4.75% Annual Distribution

### Endowment Impact



**\$1,814,060.48**  
Amount of Donor Contributions  
to Endowment Funds in 2019

### Endowment Designation



\*All totals are as of December 2020



**University  
Advancement**  
SOUTHERN ARKANSAS UNIVERSITY

**Alumni • Development • Foundation**