



2023

RENEWING OUR COMMITMENT TO LEARNING

The Impact
of Philanthropy



RENEWING OUR COMMITMENT TO LEARNING

The past year has been one of celebration and change. Between the inauguration of a new president, the launch of new programs, and the introduction of a new strategic plan – all of it under a new name and university status – there was much to be excited about.

We are grateful to our alumni, friends, and community members for being beside us through these changes and for supporting Empire State University through our next half-century and beyond. Our commitment to learning and student success is renewed and refreshed, buoyed by your involvement with SUNY Empire. This report provides a snapshot of the impact of your commitment to the university and our students.

**Thank you for your generous support of the
SUNY Empire Foundation in 2023, and always.**





A MESSAGE FROM

SUNY Empire Foundation Board Chairwoman

Marian Conway, Ph.D. '01, '04



We humans often resist change, but change is learning. Change is renewing, as if we are blowing the dust out of the corners. SUNY Empire has a new name, stepping up from college to university. We have a new administration and a new strategic plan.

As we move forward with renewed energy, it is also important to acknowledge those who lifted us up on our journey here.

Where would we be without the work and commitment of people like Jim and Mary Elizabeth Hall; Wally and the late Jane Altes; and Jack and the late Susan Turben? Please take a moment to read the piece about the Altes' generosity, and the recipients of the Turben Chair, Hall Award and others. We have remarkable students and have featured two in these pages.

And finally, Jim and Christine Karcher. Jim is a valued member of the Foundation board who helps guide us through so many decisions, a change leader with an eye on what is best for SUNY Empire.

The Foundation is grateful to the entire university family for their outstanding stewardship of funds and helping us clean out any dust!

Thank you! Because of the continued support of alumni, staff, faculty, and friends, throughout the 2022-23 academic year we were able to provide students with basic needs emergency funding and scholarships, while supporting faculty development and academic programs.

Speaking of supporting faculty, I have met faculty with world-class talent and skill sets at Empire State University. Take for example, Professor Cathryn Thurston, who started her career at the Pentagon as an intelligence analyst and is now the lead for SUNY Empire's security studies program. She is a stellar example of valuing learning with her working adult students.

Marian Conway, Ph.D. '01, '04
Chairwoman, SUNY Empire State University
Foundation Board of Directors





A MESSAGE FROM President Lisa Vollendorf, Ph.D.

I love the theme of this year's Impact Report: Renewing Our Commitment to Learning. It serves as a reminder that the work we do in service to our students and to one another can always be enhanced and strengthened. Our work is—by its very nature and today's changing educational environment—always a work in progress. That's also what makes it exciting and rewarding.

Empire State University's commitment to learning is multifaceted. Although a lot of the work takes place in the classroom, a significant amount happens behind the scenes and is impacted by the work of every individual at this institution.

Renewing our commitment to learning includes, of course, academic excellence, which requires constant innovation and reimagining of our programs, curriculum, and teaching methodologies.

It includes student success initiatives, driving us to create ever-more supportive and engaging online learning environments, resources, and opportunities for students, from our library, bookstore, and tutoring services to career services and opportunity programs geared toward learners of all backgrounds and ages.

Renewing our commitment to learning also encompasses integration of technology, pushing us to keep up with rapid advancements in technology and ensuring access to that technology for all students.



It embraces diversity, equity, and inclusion and providing a place where learning and belonging go hand in hand, where diversity of all kinds is promoted and celebrated, and where diverse perspectives can be shared and heard.

And it speaks to the necessity of continuous improvement and self-assessment—a commitment to learning what we do well and what we could be doing better to respond to the evolving needs of our students and address gaps in the higher-education landscape.

I thank you, our donors, for making it possible for us to remain innovative, to be responsive to the needs of students and society, and to foster an academic environment that encourages continual intellectual growth and development.

In gratitude,

Lisa Vollendorf, Ph.D.
President





SNAPSHOTS OF STUDENT SUCCESS

Zoe Bonaparte '23, B.S. in Nursing



Zoe Bonaparte, RN had an ambitious 10-year plan for her education. Two years for an associate degree, three for a bachelor's, five for a master's. So far, she's on track. She completed her associate degree to become a registered nurse in two years, and her B.S. in nursing in three. Her next goal – the five-year part of her plan – is to pursue a master's degree to become a family nurse practitioner.

Zoe, who lives in Hogansburg, NY, has lofty ambitions and a drive to succeed. She received her certificate for licensed practical nursing in 2018 from SUNY North Country Community College. After that, she was primed to continue her nursing education. She completed NCCC's RN program in two academic years and enrolled in SUNY Empire's BSN program a few months after graduating.

As Zoe explored her options for a bachelor's program, she found herself intimidated by online programs, although "it was my only feasible option. There were many choices and enticing offers from online colleges throughout the country. However, my loyalty remained with the SUNY system. I recognized SUNY Empire's reputation as a leader in online education and their well-established nursing program."

"Obtaining a bachelor's degree has always been a personal goal of mine," she says. "After earning my BSN, I look forward to working full time as a nurse for underserved populations before pursuing a master's degree. I would like to be a Nurse Practitioner in five years."

Davin Healthcare Nursing Scholarship

During her final year at SUNY Empire, Zoe received the Davin Healthcare Nursing Scholarship through the SUNY Empire Foundation, graduating magna cum laude with her B.S. in nursing in 2023.

The Davin Scholarship was created by alumnus David Theobald '13, '17 to assist nursing students completing their bachelor's degrees as they pursue a career in nursing. As a healthcare staffing organization, Davin is committed to helping nurses like Zoe succeed in the nursing profession.

SUNY Empire came along at the right time, in the right format, and at the right pace for Zoe to achieve her goals, and she's grateful for the experience. "Nursing requires a commitment to life-long learning in an increasingly multicultural and technology driven world," she says. "My experience at SUNY Empire was conducive to my goals as a full-time working nurse, mother, and student. The nursing program offers a practical pace and flexibility for working professionals, and I am confident in the choices I have made for beginning and continuing my education in nursing."

"Nursing requires a commitment to life-long learning in an increasingly multicultural and technology driven world." – Zoe Bonaparte '23

Luis Torres, B.S. in Science,
Mathematics & Technology Concentration in
Computer Science

Among the words that describe Luis Torres of Brentwood, NY, “enthusiastic” comes to mind. Along with “determined” and “focused.” As he nears the end of his undergraduate program in computer science, he knows exactly how SUNY Empire will help him achieve his goals.

“I was drawn to this institution by two essential factors: A) flexibility and B) a strong commitment from the faculty to my educational journey,” he says. “Empire’s online and independent study options provided the flexibility I sought, and my interactions with my academic mentor showcased the faculty’s unwavering support. This program aligns perfectly with my goals.”

Originally from the Dominican Republic, Luis’ parents worked hard to save up to apply for residency status in the U.S., as they believed it would provide Luis with the opportunity to have a better life than they did. “When I was 8 years old, their wishes became a reality and we immigrated to the U.S.,” he says. “Being dropped into a new school, new home, new country, and new culture definitely took some getting used to, but I learned at a young age that being able to adapt to new surroundings is vital.”

While balancing full-time work and school, Luis accomplished his first goal of receiving his associate degree in business administration from SUNY Suffolk County Community College. “The road to that accomplishment was difficult,” he says.

Luis soon realized he had a passion for computer programming and started looking for a bachelor’s program in computer science. SUNY Empire quickly came to his attention. “I decided to pursue my bachelor’s at Empire after a close friend of mine, Fabiola Donayre, who is currently a student, raved about the flexibility of the courses and attentiveness of the faculty,” Luis says.

After he completes his bachelor’s degree, Luis hopes to study abroad to pursue a graduate degree in software engineering. Studying abroad, he says, “would help me better understand the diverse needs of people worldwide. I intend to use software development for the betterment of mankind and focus my efforts on fighting climate change.”



“My studies in science, mathematics and technology are equipping me with the knowledge and skills needed for my ultimate career goal of becoming a software engineer.” – Luis Torres

Turner Family Scholarship

Luis received assistance to complete his studies through several scholarships offered by the SUNY Empire Foundation, including the Turner Family Scholarship. Created by alumna Ann Turner '86 and her husband Bruce, the Turner Family Scholarship made its first award to Luis in 2022. As the inaugural recipient, he was grateful for the support, which allowed him to spend more time on schoolwork, rather than “working overtime hours to make my tuition payments.”

“My studies in science, mathematics and technology are equipping me with the knowledge and skills needed for my ultimate career goal of becoming a software engineer,” he says.

“This program not only teaches me coding but also familiarizes me with essential policies, theories, and practices that are crucial for success in this field. I firmly believe that technology is the secret to making the world a better place, and I hope that my work will contribute to helping people live better, easier lives.”

Luis is thrilled that he made the decision to enroll at Empire State University. “I view SUNY Empire as a hidden gem of a university. It offers a high-quality, affordable education and boasts a dedicated staff who are equally committed to your success. If you require a flexible schedule to accommodate your lifestyle, then SUNY Empire is the ideal choice for you.”





DONOR SPOTLIGHT

James '79 and Christine '93 Karcher, the University's Unofficial Ambassadors

When you meet James '79 and Christine '93 Karcher, you will surely hear them singing the praises of their shared alma mater. SUNY Empire, they agree, "was the highlight of our academic careers."

After spending over two years at C.W. Post College, Jim received an associate degree in accounting at SUNY Farmingdale. He took several courses at other universities and was determined to put all his educational pieces together and attain a four-year business degree.

A traditional program was not an option for Jim. "I was working two or three jobs, had two young children and was expecting our third child," he says. "There was no way for me to attend scheduled, multi-night classes."

He thought he had no options until his search led him to the newly created Empire State College. "I had many pieces of a puzzle that I needed to assemble. I accumulated all these credits, and I believed that SUNY Empire was the way to go," he says. "Not only did Empire State transfer most of my credits from other institutions, but I also received credits for work experience."

Putting the Puzzle Together

His gamble of trying out the new and innovative model paid off. "I was inspired by the challenging and engaging education that Empire State offered," he says. "It motivated me to accomplish my lifelong dream to get a bachelor's degree, which I achieved in 1979. The following year, I opened my own business, and the rest is history."

As their children grew, Chris contemplated finishing her own college degree. "I always regretted not completing my bachelor's degree," she says. "After the children began school, I felt it was time to revisit my college goal. Jim encouraged me to enroll in SUNY Empire. The flexibility of the program gave me the ability to pursue my degree and still be able to raise my family."





The university's Alumni House in Saratoga Springs, NY.

She immediately embraced the experience and graduated with a B.S. in psychology and human development in 1993. She refers to SUNY Empire as “one of the best experiences of my life. The one-on-one interaction with the mentors and the degree program that was designed for me was exactly the perfect formula to achieve my goal. I gained more from this program than a traditional classroom experience.”

In Praise of the Faculty

Both Jim and Chris are quick to praise the professors and staff they worked with at SUNY Empire. The relationships they developed, and their Empire experience, benefitted their respective career pursuits.

While Chris was working as the program director at a children's science center, a job that required a great deal of writing and public speaking, she was able to draw on her

SUNY Empire training. “My mentors encouraged me to enroll in a few writing courses and over time my writing improved,” she says. “Researching and writing countless papers for my courses continued to improve my skill level, which I needed to become a proficient writer. My experience also gave me the courage to speak in front of large groups of teachers, staff and children, which was required in my position at the science center.”

Over the years, they have embraced their roles as informal ambassadors for SUNY Empire. Both have referred numerous friends, family members, and even casual acquaintances to study at the university. As Chris says, “once these future students heard it was a SUNY degree, they were on board.”

They are happy to say that many have finished their degrees, and now these graduates also sing the praises of Empire State.



“The board and the faculty work together, and we all feel like we are doing something beneficial that supports the continuous growth of SUNY Empire.”

— James Karcher '79

Service to the University

Jim is one of the longest-serving members of the SUNY Empire Foundation Board of Directors, joining the board in 2005. At that time, he had semi-retired from his business and finally had time to make the commitment. He joined the board and embraced the mission of advising and assisting the foundation’s future growth. Besides being a member of the foundation’s Finance Committee for many years, he also chaired that committee and served as the chair for annual giving.

“I think the relationships and friendships I have made over the past 18 years have been extraordinary,” he says. “The board and the faculty work together, and we all feel like we are doing something beneficial that supports the continuous growth of SUNY Empire.”

Enjoying Retirement

Now that they are “totally retired,” as Jim says, their focus is on spending time with their grandchildren, traveling, and they both say, “enjoying life.”

With recent trips to Iceland, Greenland, Hawaii, and France behind them, they are making up for lost time and looking forward to a trip to Australia this winter.

Karcher Family Scholarship

Their desire to give back to the university and help Empire students influenced Jim and Chris to establish the Karcher Family Scholarship in 2019. The scholarship supports undergraduate students from Long Island.

Learning about the recipients of the Karcher Family Scholarship has been rewarding, and they are thrilled that they finally created their own scholarship. They look forward to receiving letters from Karcher Family Scholars each fall and hearing about each recipient’s journey and future aspirations. They agree it’s a rewarding feeling to know they’re helping students achieve their goals.




FACULTY SPOTLIGHT



Diving into National Security with Professor Cathryn Thurston, Ph.D.

Associate Professor Cathryn Thurston has immersed herself in multiple professions. After a quarter-century in national security, counterterrorism, and intelligence research, she transitioned to full-time teaching when she joined Empire State University's School for Social and Behavioral Science in 2020.

She currently serves as associate department chair in public affairs and lead for the university's security studies program. Over the past year, she was selected as a "Scholar Across the University," an opportunity funded by the SUNY Empire Foundation that offers faculty the chance to share their research and professional activities with other members of the SUNY Empire community.

Thurston had the opportunity to present several Scholars Across the University talks on conflict analysis between Ukraine and Russia. Her presentation illustrates in layman's terms "why there's a conflict, and why each side is fighting so hard."

Thurston is an ideal fit to lead the security studies program, given her wide-ranging experience in national security and political science. Her intelligence career started and ended at the epicenter of national security work, at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C.

"My very first job was at the Pentagon," she says, "and I made sure my last job in D.C. was at the Pentagon."

She is still in awe of her time at the Pentagon, although she is necessarily opaque with the details of her work.

"The whole building was intriguing," she shares. "The way it works is a mystery to outsiders, but it's a lot of fun. You really feel like you're part of something much larger, where all the decisions are being made. To have the privilege of working in that building and know so many interesting people was a highlight of my career."

"I have always been so curious about how things work, how the world works and why it works in different ways,"

— Cathryn Thurston, Ph.D.

International intelligence work came naturally to Thurston. She learned Russian, German, and Hungarian, and studied abroad in Hungary as an undergraduate. Her inherent curiosity about international affairs is reflected in her career choices.

Her first government role was as a civilian intelligence analyst for the U.S. Army, before becoming a political scientist for Rand Corporation, a public policy research organization. She went on to work as the director of research and faculty member



Scholar Across the University
RECOGNITION



for the National Intelligence University, branch chief for strategic assessment at the National Counterterrorism Center, and intelligence mission manager for the Defense Intelligence Agency.

“I have always been so curious about how things work, how the world works and why it works in different ways,” she says.

After 25 years in D.C., and with their kids about to graduate, Thurston and her husband started thinking about embarking on a change. They decided to return to Queensbury, NY, her husband’s childhood home, and she joined the faculty at SUNY Empire. Thurston was recruited to run the new security studies program, which she fully enjoys.

Undergraduate teaching was a logical transition. Through her work at very high levels of international security intelligence, she has developed a knack for distilling information into easily understandable concepts. “I always had some

type of teaching or research role,” she says. “When you’re doing intelligence analysis, you’re still teaching, because you’re taking complex, difficult subjects that have lots of holes in the information and communicating that to someone at a senior level who is going to make a decision with that information.”

The bachelor’s degree program in security studies, which launched in fall 2020, is a mix of international relations, emergency management, and homeland security, with “a little bit of cybersecurity thrown in,” she says. Thurston describes it as “unique” compared to similar programs. “Students really appreciate that it’s not all theoretical. The program gives them a broad view of the wide variety of jobs they could have in national security.”

“I am constantly telling people how amazing our students are.” – Cathryn Thurston, Ph.D.

There are currently about 60 students enrolled in the program, and Thurston hopes to increase its size and scope. In addition to developing a concentration in conflict analysis – the subject of her Ph.D. – she hopes to collaborate with other institutions, develop grants with the intelligence community, and expand the program to include graduate courses.

“In this particular field of study,” she says, “the more the merrier. It will lead to better options and opportunities for our students.”

Thurston is continually impressed by students in the program. “I am constantly telling people how amazing our students are,” she says. “They bring a lot of experience, and they’re already working on the job but need to finish their degree. I enjoy working with students who know their goals.”

“National security needs all kinds of people,” she explains. “It doesn’t help national security if they only hire young people right out of college. My major goal is to advocate for SUNY Empire students.”

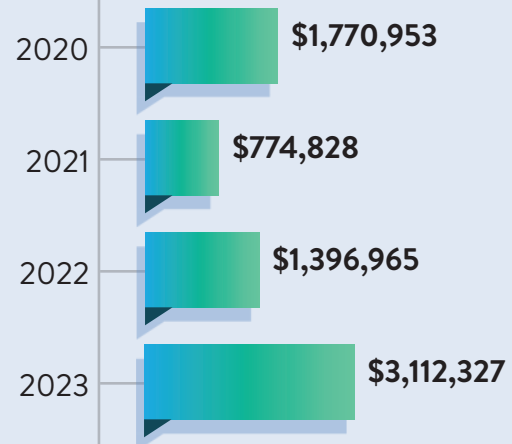




The Foundation's Fiscal Year 2023 Financial Report

Through the support of our alumni, employees, and friends, the SUNY Empire Foundation provides invaluable resources to students as they deepen their academic expertise, grow as leaders in their field, and achieve their personal and professional aspirations. We are grateful to you for making a gift to the foundation in fiscal year 2023 — you made it possible for SUNY Empire to maintain our commitment to learning and student success. This report provides an overview of the financial health of the foundation and the impact of your commitment to the university and our students.

TOTAL FUNDS RAISED 2020-2023



Includes gift commitments and cash received for each respective fiscal year, ending on June 30.

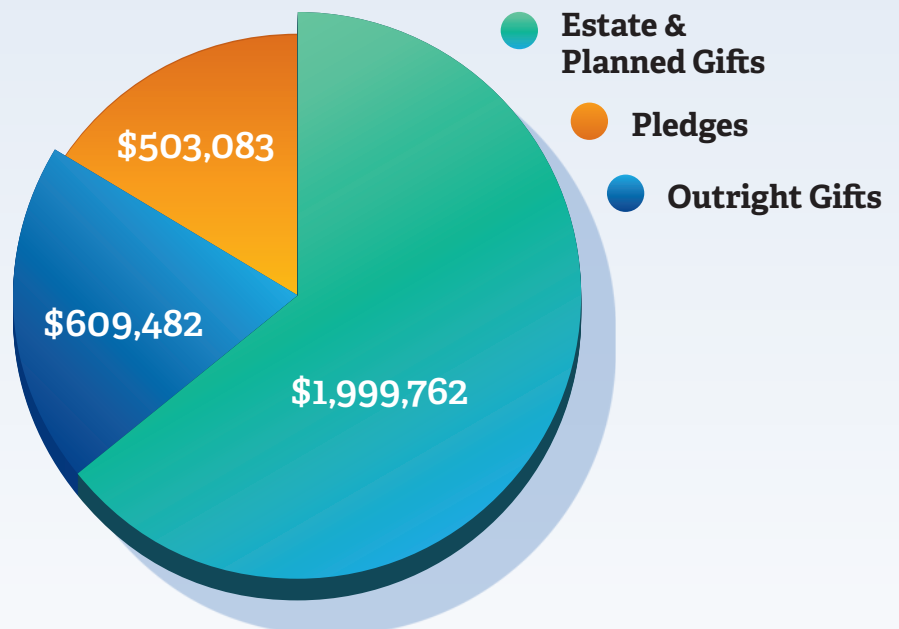
TOTAL FUNDS RAISED

Fiscal Year 2023

\$3,112,327

The total includes gifts and pledges directed to the Fund for SUNY Empire; restricted support of individual scholarship funds and other dedicated accounts; estate and planned gift commitments; and corporate and foundation grants and matching gifts.

Reflects fundraising results for the 2023 fiscal year from July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023.



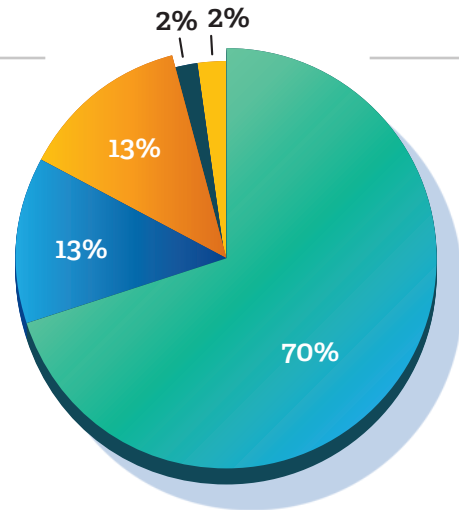


TOTAL DONORS

By Category

1,134 donors contributed to SUNY Empire in fiscal year 2023, including alumni, friends, foundations, corporations, and employees. Alumni make up **70%** of the foundation's supporters.

- **Alumni:** 70%
- **Employees:** 13%
- **Friends:** 13%
- **Foundations:** 2%
- **Corporations:** 2%



THE FUND FOR SUNY EMPIRE STATE UNIVERSITY

The most impactful way that people support the university is through The Fund for SUNY Empire. The fund broadly supports students, academic programs, and employee development across the university each year.

In fiscal year 2023, individuals, corporations, and foundations made gifts totaling \$258,697 to the Fund for SUNY Empire.

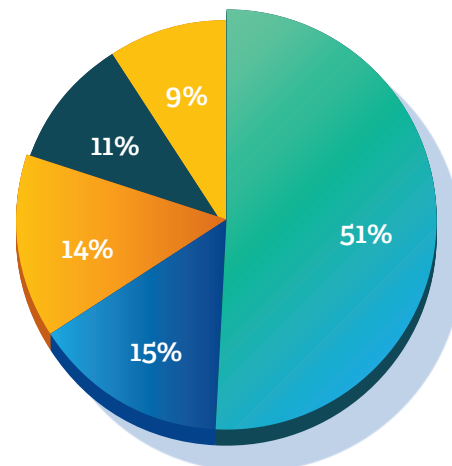
Gifts to The Fund for SUNY Empire are distributed among the greatest needs of the institution, including scholarship funds. The Financial Aid Office awarded 40 students in fiscal year 2023 with Fund for SUNY Empire Scholarships. The recipients were selected on the basis of financial need and academic promise, and the funding is often crucial to helping students complete their degrees. As one student expressed upon receiving the award, **"I would not be able to continue college without your help."**

FOUNDATION ALLOCATION

For Fiscal Year 2023

The foundation provided **\$1.5 million**, which was distributed to various college programs and initiatives throughout the 2022-23 academic year. Half was distributed to students through scholarships and other student programs; the remainder was utilized for academic program support, outreach to potential students and partner organizations, professional development for faculty and staff, and fundraising expenses.

- **Student Scholarships & Activities:** \$767,439
- **Personnel Support & Professional Development Activities:** \$223,807
- **Outreach & Emerging Opportunities:** \$215,264
- **Academic Programs:** \$167,680
- **Fundraising & Marketing Expenses:** \$132,400

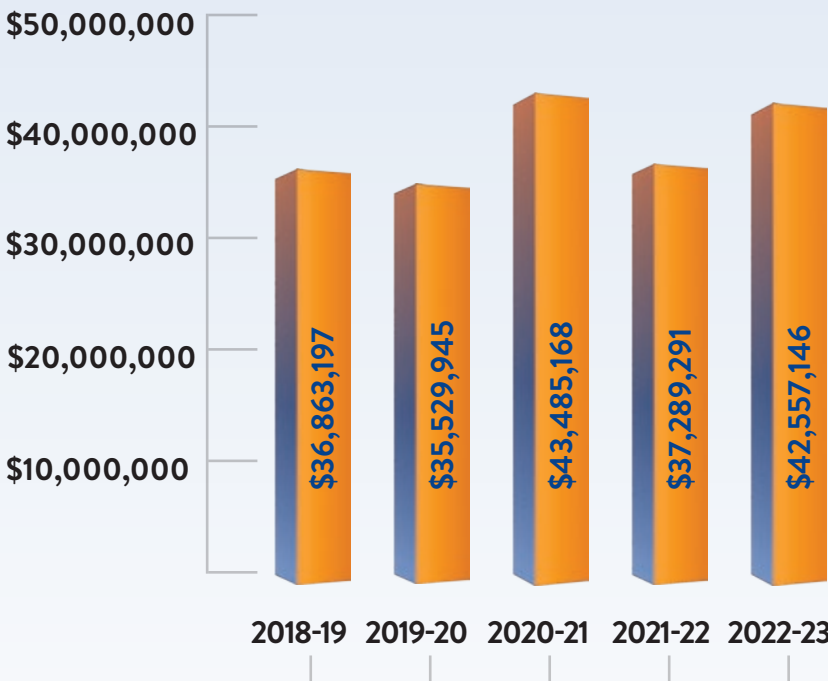
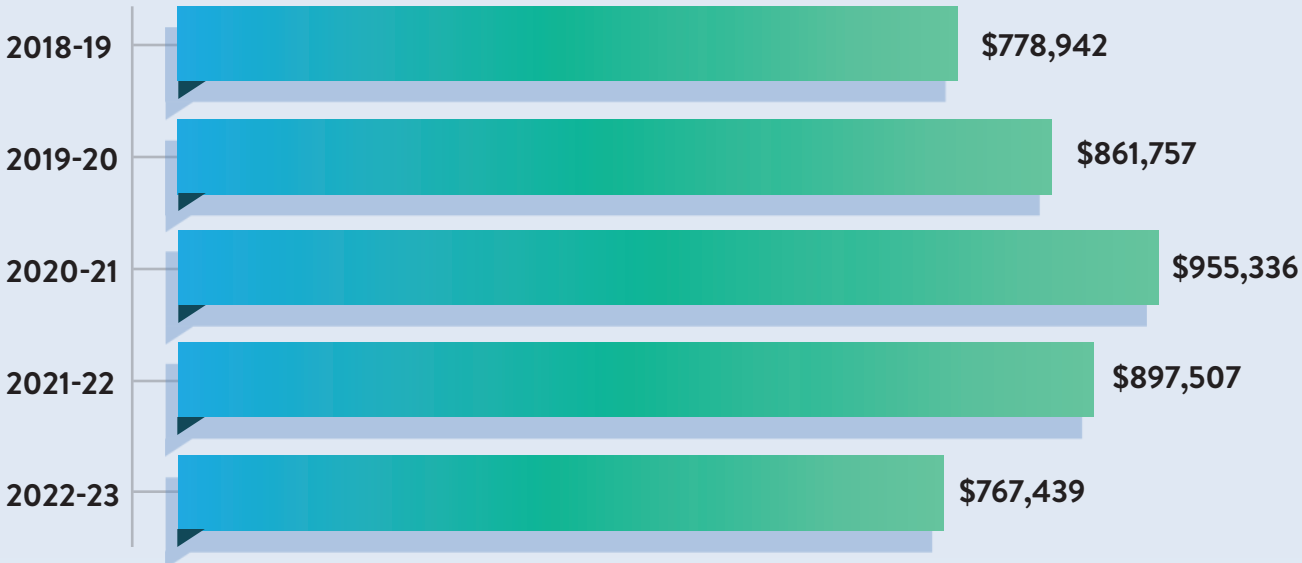


Total Allocation
\$1,506,590



SCHOLARSHIP & STUDENT ACTIVITY REPORT

Students received **\$767,439** in scholarships and other support in the 2023 fiscal year.



TOTAL ASSETS OF THE FOUNDATION

Assets of the foundation totaling \$42.5 million include investments, real estate holdings, gifts and pledges, property and equipment, and other receivables. The value of assets **increased 14%** during fiscal year 2023, regaining most of the value lost during last year's economic downturn.

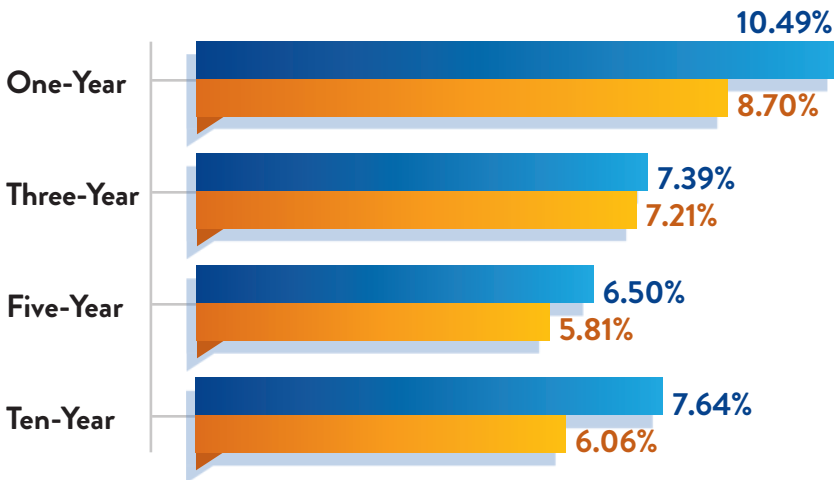
Total Assets of the Foundation

\$42,557,146



INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO PERFORMANCE

The one-, three-, five-, and 10-year average annual rate of return for the Empire State College Foundation investment portfolio, as compared to the NACUBO-TIAA Study of Endowments (National Association of College and University Business Officers), as of June 30, 2023.



Empire State College Foundation Endowment 2023
 Ten-Year: 7.64% Three-Year: 7.39%
 Five-Year: 6.50% One-Year: 10.49%

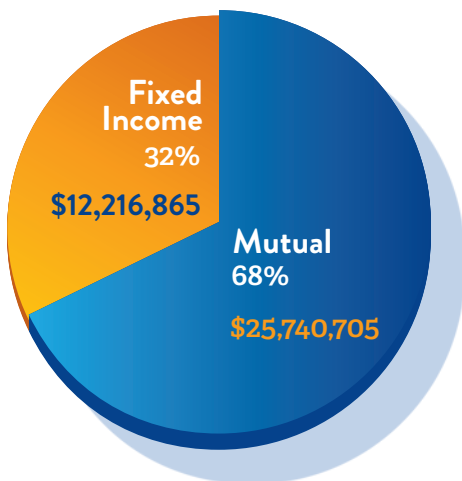
NACUBO-TIAA Study of Endowments 2023
 Ten-Year: 6.06% Three-Year: 7.21%
 Five-Year: 5.81% One-Year: 8.70%

The NACUBO figures are based on the early release returns provided by the institutions that submit early nationwide. The full survey will be released after the 2023 Impact Report publication date.

INVESTMENT ALLOCATION

Percentage of \$37,985,113 in total investment assets at fair market value. The remainder of assets are held in cash and cash equivalents, property and equipment, charitable remainder trusts, and other accounts including pledges, life insurance value, and accounts receivable.

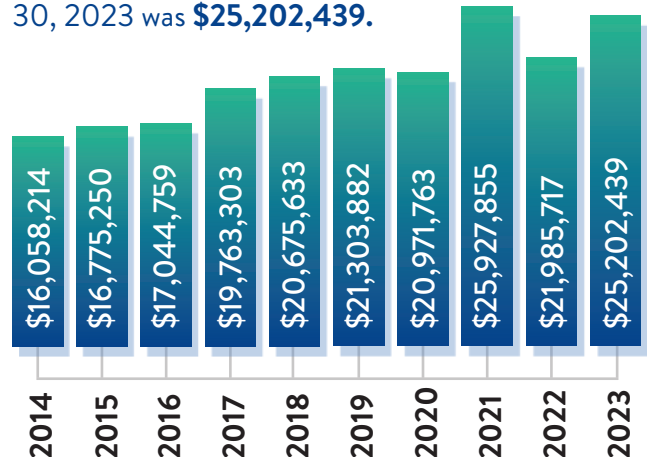
Fixed Income Securities: 32%
Mutual Funds: 68%



TOTAL ENDOWMENT VALUE

Over the past decade, the value of the foundation’s endowment has increased nearly \$10 million — from \$16 million to over **\$25 million** in 2023. The endowment fund provides a stable source of revenue to support student activities, academic programs, and other outreach efforts throughout the year.

Endowment value as of June 30, 2023 was **\$25,202,439**.



Boyer LEGACY SOCIETY



The Boyer Legacy Society is named in honor of former Chancellor of the State University of New York, Ernest Boyer Ph.D., and his wife Kay Boyer '78. The Boyer Legacy Society recognizes and acknowledges those individuals who have named Empire State University in their will or as the beneficiary of a trust or other planned gift.

Membership represents an outstanding commitment to the university and helps ensure that SUNY Empire maintains its leadership in higher education for adult students who seek better jobs and careers, richer intellectual lives, and sophisticated skills that are essential to being knowledgeable citizens of the nation and the world.

Learn more at: sunyempire.edu/plangifts

MEMBERS OF THE BOYER LEGACY SOCIETY

Anonymous
 Norris G. Adams '82
 Jane* and Wallace Altes
 Marcy A. Alves '16, '17
 Keith D. Amparado '88
 Marlea C. Andolora '14
 Lin S. Applegarth '10, '15
 David Asch '83
 Allen Bailey '19
 Joann Bailey
 Ute Elisabeth Barber '93
 Sharon E. Baum '07
 Pasquale J. Beldotti '75*
 Juliene Bell-Smith '20
 Juanita Belmar '17, '19
 Nancy Bennett '18
 Adrienne D. Berg '11
 Matthew Steven Berge '21, '23
 Anne R. Bertholf
 Susanna Bezold '98
 Henriette Bleck '16
 Deborah J. Bobb '21 and Winston A. Bobb
 Deborah Botch '86
 Kathryn (Kay) Boyer '78*
 Wenona BradleyWilliams '23
 Felicia Brightman-Smartt '17
 James Aloysius Gibson*
 and Patricia Brozinsky
 Susan K. Butler '06
 Patricia M. Callahan '94*
 Lisa M. Capone '96
 Bobbi Jo Carter '18
 Sara Elizabeth and Matthew Christ '21
 Hortence S.* and Warren R. Cochrane*
 Maxwell Cohen '76, '85*

*Deceased



Willie A. Cornelius '13
John '94 and Jane Corrou
Gordon Darrow '87*
George Glenn Dawson*
Philip J. de Carolis '92, '97*
Maureen C. Del Giacco '86, '95
Dennis R. De Long
Joseph Demma '21
Yanelys Diaz '16
Tyrone M. Dixon '01
Pamela Jean Doran '21, '23
Nancy J. Dorau '18
Sandra Bauhan DuBois '78
Aaron Dudley '23
Karin C. VonKay '79
and David C. Duggan
John L. Dunne '83*
Robert H. Ehrmann '78*
Joyce E. Elliott
and Cynthia M. Swadba
Joan A. Englehart '84
Kimberley Mae English '15, '17
Angelina Monell '08
Carol J. Evans '77
Marnie Evans*
Astrid Ewing '82
Ronald D. Falciano '09
Debra M. Federation '21
and Brendan J. Komala
Dunia Pamela
and Claudio Fernandez '13
Catherine M. Ferraro '98
Muriel Fickler '85*
Linza Ford '91
Erika E. Fosmire '07, '10
Patricia M. Fralick '01
Mark '78 and Marjorie Fuhrmann
Celene Garcia '02
Bailey M. and Elaine Geeslin
Margaret R. Gibson '85
Alison D. Gilbert '92
Sidney Gluck '79
Angelica Godette '13
Doris Goldberg

Emma Gomez '79, '81
Leon Goretsky
Mark Granfors-Hunt '01
James William
and Mary Elizabeth Hall
Hugh B. Hammett
Merodie A. Hancock
Jacqueline Christine Hannon '15
MaryAnn Hannon '09
Jessica A. Harrington '12
Jayne Regan Harris*
Philip Hilden '82
Susan T. Hollis
Dwight Hakeem Hopkins '22
Michael C. Hubbard '75
Joanne R. Hvidas '92, '93
Scott Jefferson '07
Donald Lee Johnson '98
Robert '96*
and Carolyn* Johnson
Tina Marie Jones '09
Stephen C. Kasper*
Davida Delores Kilgore '05
Judith (Suzy) Kline '86
Susan A. Koch '01
Pamela Kone '90*
Michael Robert Lamb '15, '18
Celifa A. Landy '22, '23
Deborah and Don Lansing
Corine Lawrence '85
Paulette L. Lawrence '16
John C. Lockhart '14
David F. Madden '78*
Margaret Madigan '20
Janet Lorri Manning '21
Addie R. Marrow '11
Keith Martin '84*
Marie D. Rivas '16
Nancy E. Massicci '09
James A. Matte '76
David '10 and Joy Mazzetti
Margaret McAloon
Terrence McCafferty '80, '03
Jennifer Ann McCallum '21

Shana D. McIntosh '10
Nancy A. McLachlin '81*
Caleah K. McMillan '18
Marjorie Meinhardt '77
Maureen Meloy '92*
Stephen Keep Mills '89
Joe Moore and Beth Chiquoine
Harold P. Morrill '04*
Marion C. Morse '81*
Mary Murphy '18
Jessica Marie Naioti '12
Mele Nelson '07
Mitchell S. Nesler
Kaytlyn Rose Nevelizer '20
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Cynthia Zaentz '89

*Deceased



LEAVING A LEGACY:

Dr. Jane and Wallace Altes

Jane Altes, Ph.D. came to SUNY Empire in 1987 as vice president for academic affairs and served in various roles for more than 30 years, including three years as interim president. During her time as vice president, she guided SUNY Empire through a successful reaccreditation process and supported several important growth initiatives.

In recognition of her retirement in 2000, Jane and her husband Wallace established the Altes Prize for Exemplary Community Service, which is awarded to faculty and staff members engaged in an outstanding community service project that uses research and insights from their academic discipline to address pressing social problems. Through this award, the Alteses hoped to both recognize community service efforts, and, by example, encourage others to undertake such efforts.

Sadly, Jane passed away in early 2023. Upon her passing, Jane's family decided to expand their original commitment to the Altes Prize by making a legacy gift in her memory. Through this commitment, the Altes Prize for Exemplary Community Service and the legacy of Jane and Wallace Altes will continue to promote community service initiatives.



THE PRESIDENT'S CLUB

The President's Club recognizes our most generous alumni and friends who make gifts totaling **\$500** or more throughout the year. Members of the President's Club share the university's vision and demonstrate their dedication and commitment through their leadership support.



ARE YOU EMPIRE TRUE?

In 2023, we were pleased to launch our new donor community, Empire True. This exclusive group is comprised of dedicated supporters who showcase their unwavering commitment and

loyalty to the university by generously donating for three or more consecutive years or participating in monthly giving. **Members of the President's Club who are also members of Empire True are denoted by the ♦ symbol in the following list.**

Establishing a tradition of annual giving to the university is crucial to the success of SUNY Empire. This consistent funding plays a vital role in fostering student scholarships, providing faculty support, and ultimately enabling our students to achieve their dreams of becoming SUNY Empire graduates.

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◆ **President's Club members who are also members of the Empire True loyalty society with consecutive contributions of 3+ years.**

*Deceased



LAWRENCE JOHNSON '20, '23

“Giving back is essential to the survival of those coming behind you. Dorothy Burnham is a living and breathing legend whose memory needs to be kept alive with the Dorothy Burnham Scholarship. Her name is associated with helping, and this scholarship bearing her name will do the same in the future, because long after she’s gone, she will still be helping those that need it.”

Larry is a double alumnus, donor to the President’s Club, and volunteer member of the Alumni Federation Board of Directors. His President’s Club gift was directed to the Dorothy Burnham Scholarship, established in 2022 in celebration of retired faculty member Dorothy Burnham’s 107th birthday. She is a longtime civil rights advocate, scientist, educator, artist, and writer who served on the faculty of SUNY Empire for more than three decades.

For more information on the Dorothy Burnham Scholarship, visit: sunyempire.edu/BurnhamScholarship





CELEBRATING FACULTY EXCELLENCE

In recognition of faculty members and professional employees' various academic and professional accomplishments, SUNY Empire gives several prestigious awards each year to members of our community. These awards are generously funded by friends and supporters of the university, and it is through their gracious support that we are able to highlight these individuals' work. The following are the most recent recipients of the various excellence awards.



ALTES PRIZE FOR EXEMPLARY COMMUNITY SERVICE **Jenny Mincin, Ph.D.**

The Altes Prize, established by Jane and Wallace Altes in 2000, is presented annually to a member of the Empire State University community who uses research and insights from

their academic discipline to address pressing social problems through outstanding community service. (See profile on Jane and Wallace Altes on page 17.)

Associate Professor of Human Services Jenny Mincin, this year's recipient, was recognized for her global humanitarian work. Whether it's a natural disaster, a war, or a terrorist attack, Mincin has been helping vulnerable populations during some of modern history's most tumultuous moments.

During 9/11, she helped first responders deal with the trauma of

their rescue work. When Hurricane Katrina struck Louisiana in 2005, Mincin helped find housing for immigrants, refugees, and people with disabilities. Shortly after the Taliban seized control of Afghanistan after the U.S. troop withdrawal in 2021, Mincin participated in efforts to evacuate four families who had been receiving death threats and later supported their resettlement. During her sabbatical in 2023-24, she will collaborate with international organizations and community-based organizations in Ireland on how best to support Syrian, Ukrainian, and African refugees.

**JAMES WILLIAM
& MARY ELIZABETH HALL
AWARD FOR INNOVATION**
Kelly Cattron, Ph.D.

Founding president of SUNY Empire James Hall and his wife Liz established the Hall Award for Innovation to recognize faculty or staff who lead unique and impactful projects that promote the mission of the university.

This year’s award recognizes the work of Kelly Cattron, associate chair of the Department of Psychology and Human Development, for helping to expand and enhance the bachelor’s program in psychology with the use of technology and creative planning.

Since the psychology program launched in 2019, Cattron has been at the forefront of its expansion, largely by embracing innovative technologies and adding courses. As a result of her efforts, the program has grown significantly, debuting with 155 enrollments in the 2019-20 academic year and now up to over 1,000 students. Cattron adopted artificial intelligence technology to provide constructive feedback to

students and improve their writing skills, which enabled an increase in class sizes. She also adopted a “carousel” model of course planning that enabled students to jump in at any point in their academic career, making it easier for them to finish their degree sooner.



**ARTHUR IMPERATORE
COMMUNITY FORUM
FELLOWSHIP**
Sarah Valentine, Ph.D.

The Arthur Imperatore Community Forum Fellowship is an endowed fellowship established by friend of Empire State University, Arthur Imperatore H’85, who died in 2020 at the age of 95. This award enables a faculty mentor to develop a year-long community-related research or artistic project.

This year’s recipient is Sarah Valentine, an assistant professor in the School of Nursing and Allied Health. During this upcoming year, Valentine will deepen her work on hospital and community collaborations around environmental health. In her recent research, Valentine has identified that although environmental pollution is a substantial community health concern, hospitals have not acted to address such needs. Her fellowship will explore barriers and potential facilitators to hospital and community partnerships and launch forums to develop shared responses to environmental pollution that improve population health.





SUSAN H. TURBEN
CHAIR IN MENTORING
Elizabeth Bradley, Ph.D.

The late Susan Turben '72, H'05 held the distinction of being SUNY Empire's second graduate, completing a B.A. in developmental psychology/ infant development in 1972. She also served as a member of the Foundation Board of Directors for two decades. As a pioneer in the field of infant education and early childhood special education intervention, she was president of Turben Developmental Services; a frequent lecturer and

author on child development, abuse, and neglect prevention; and an instructor in early childhood education.

Susan and her husband Jack established the Turben Chair in Mentoring to promote excellence in mentoring and recognize the student/mentor relationship. The Turben Chair is awarded to faculty members who demonstrate the capacity to advance scholarship and best practices in mentoring, and who have the potential to make a significant contribution to the theory, research and practice of mentoring.

This year's Turben Chair is education studies professor Elizabeth Bradley from the School for Graduate Studies. Prior to teaching at SUNY Empire, Bradley worked as a school psycholo-

gist and researcher on substance use interventions, child neuropsychology, and school-based interventions for at-risk youth. She has conducted research on simulations in teacher education, including classroom management, identifying at-risk students, plagiarism prevention and bullying prevention. She has presented and published these results at national teaching and psychology conferences and in peer-reviewed journals.



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