THANK YOU
TO THOSE WHO INSPIRE

EASTERN
WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY
FOUNDATION

2011 HONOR ROLL OF DONORS
Dear Friends,

Eastern Washington University is wrapping up another incredible year and I am honored to thank you for supporting Eastern.

Your generosity has been very meaningful during this pivotal time when EWU is educating a record number of students, all while state funding has decreased to historically low levels. That is why in these Honor Roll pages, I am pleased to focus on you – our generous donors. Your commitment has made so many things possible for our students. Just read some of the student letters and stories in this publication, and you will see just how one gift to the scholarship fund helps students achieve their academic and lifelong goals.

As you know, EWU is focused on maintaining a high-quality and affordable academic environment through innovative plans, creative thinking, dedication and hard work, by us all. It is one thing to have 12,000 students enrolled at Eastern, but as president, I want to ensure they stay at Eastern and graduate from the university in a timely manner.

I am honored to recognize those who share in this important mission by investing in and inspiring our students.

With gratitude,

Rodolfo Arévalo, PhD, President
Esteemed Donors of the EWU General University Scholarship,

I am so pleased and honored to receive this scholarship, and feel that you have helped me get closer to my academic and lifelong goals, and my lifelong journey promoting cultural and religious understanding and appreciation. Not mistaking my education as a means to an end, nor being satisfied with keeping this knowledge within the classroom, I decided to start a student organization on campus called “the Compassionate Interfaith Society” (CIS), which I can now say is one of the largest, most successful student groups at EWU. It acts as a forum for understanding and appreciation, yielding only to the common rules of compassion for others, the pursuit of understanding and the eradication of hate.

We have played host to the Dalai Lama’s peace emissary and cousin to the Tibetan prime minister, as well as Holocaust survivors and indigenous Masaai warriors. The CIS has even erected the only permanent monument dedicated to peace on campus, which can be found in the campus mall. The CIS has been internationally recognized as an example of a cohesive and remarkable successful interfaith action group, and was instrumental in nonviolent demonstrations against the visiting Westboro Baptist Church, and active in working to eradicate not just Islamophobia, but all religious phobias in the community.

I feel that these ideals were sparked here at EWU, and I am fortunate to study at such a wonderful university that fosters breaking down barriers and celebrating the rich tapestry of human diversity, cultural awareness and proactive global-minded engagement. This scholarship will play a role in my future, providing me financial assistance, and will bring to me courage and motivation in the long journey ahead.

Warmly yours in earnest, Skyler
The most phenomenal changes in the world, and in our own backyards, come from visionaries. In the 1960s, King Cole, a community developer, had a vision: Bring a World’s Fair and Exposition to Spokane that would lead to an improved downtown core. Expo ’74 did just that.

After Expo ’74, King went on to teach and lead other communities in regional planning and economic development. He and his wife, Jan, espoused the value of university urban and regional planning curriculum that encourages students to gain careers in improving communities.

On King’s 80th birthday, his children honored their parents by establishing an EWU scholarship that would honor their contributions to this community.

The late King Cole would be proud of Nate Calene, 2011-12 recipient of the King and Jan Cole Scholarship for Urban and Regional Planning (URP) and a senior in the program.

Calene also had a vision: Develop future healthful food security plans for EWU and one of Spokane’s most impoverished neighborhoods. “Over the past year, our sustainability group has been planning and implementing an EWU garden in Cheney,” Calene said. “We are trying to protect the environment and human health by installing community gardens. This scholarship is helping me with those goals.” The EWU Community Garden Project is part of the EWU Sustainability Project, a student-driven organization that has raised funds to procure the garden plot on campus. The group has proposed the Real Food Challenge for on-campus dining to increase fresh, locally-grown, fairly-traded foods by 20 percent by 2020.

Calene and URP senior capstone students conducted a two-week course at Spokane’s Chase Middle School that helped the young students start a community garden in their urban school setting.

After graduating this spring, Calene will begin reaping the benefits of his hard work. He’s been hired by a private planner who wants Calene to help take his business to the national level.
The Donors of the Cheney Real Estate Management Scholarship,

I want to thank you very much for the gift you have given to my family and me. In the years since I have graduated from Cheney High School, I have truly learned to value how hard work, a good education and success in school can form my future. I became very school oriented after my first year at Eastern. Since then I have worked extremely hard and have accomplished a lot in a small amount of time. I have now been on the Dean’s List for multiple consecutive quarters and hope to be added to the next one after spring quarter. I have also been working to try to support myself and gain job experience throughout my college career. Last quarter I began my second job and took on more credits. It has been a hectic quarter, but getting your letter in the mail let me know it has been worth it.

After high school graduation in 2008, I had trouble deciding exactly what major to choose. I had been all over the board beginning with psychology and recreation, moving to veterinary and almost everything in between. I’ve kept in mind that I could do anything I put my mind to so nothing felt like too much of a stretch. I hadn’t declared in anything yet and someone suggested the various opportunities that business will have to offer me in the future.

Since declaring, I have already started making goals for myself. I absolutely plan on continuing my education for a master’s once my bachelor’s is completed. Success in Seattle has always been an ambition of mine, and hopefully I can achieve this after I complete the degree. I have also already started looking for new job opportunities in the area that will lead to a good start for a career-oriented résumé, which includes positions in an office setting. I’m excited to begin the classes associated with this degree and gain the knowledge to making my future a success.

Thank you again so much for your help during the 2011-2012 academic year. I am very grateful that I was chosen for this award and I hope, after knowing more about me, that you are happy with your choice. This donation has lifted much weight off my shoulders and will continue my motivation toward hard work and academic success.

Sincerely, Hillary
To the Donors to the WFSE Local 931 Scholarship,

As a student athlete, I found success in the classroom and learned what it truly means to Start Something Big here at Eastern Washington University. In addition to finding success in the classroom, I have also become successful on the football field helping the Eagles to complete the greatest season in school history winning a Big Sky Conference Championship and earning the first-ever NCAA FCS National Championship.

My experienced success has given me a new attitude and outlook to what it takes to become successful both as a student and as an athlete. Without this scholarship, I would have difficulty finding funds to pursue my education degree and become a future teacher.

Sincerely yours, Kadeem

Kadeem '15
As a child, Katie Blanchette watched her mother take care of people in a nursing home. She admired the respect her mom earned from her coworkers and patients as she skillfully and compassionately helped others. Blanchette wanted to be a nurse, just like her mom.

On the road to becoming a nurse, Blanchette witnessed the joy occupational therapy patients experienced when they regained mobility, and her dream of becoming an occupational therapist was born. Blanchette hopes to work with children with disabilities.

She and her husband Jake are both in school and work part time to pay for college. An EWU General University Scholarship in 2011-12 enabled Blanchette to reduce her hours as a caregiver for a Spokane in-home care agency, worry less about money, and devote more time to her studies. She will graduate in June 2012 with a BA in psychology.

“While the scholarship does not fully cover the cost of my education, every cent that donors have helped me with gets me closer to my dream of becoming an occupational therapist and working with children,” Blanchette said. “I value my education and work very hard to do well in my classes. Being a recipient of this scholarship has helped me continue to excel academically.” The donor-funded scholarship and Blanchette’s hard work are paying off. She was recently accepted to EWU’s competitive Occupational Therapy Program, another step closer to achieving her goals.

Just as Blanchette learned from her mother’s example of caring for people, she has learned from the generosity of donors she has never met. “One day I will be able to give back and help occupational therapy students achieve their goals, just like scholarship donors have helped me to achieve mine,” she said.
John Gilbert’s life changed forever when he studied economics with Eastern professor Paul Helsing. “He just drew the curtain open on the world,” said Gilbert, a 1971 graduate. “Economics is how the world works and the cause and effect of everything.” Gilbert’s education and strong work ethic led to a successful 30-year career in banking in Latah, Wash.

Now retired, he and his family are giving back to the university through the John Gilbert Family Veterans Scholarship. “We’ve been very blessed and Eastern was a part of that, so I wanted to do something to help other students like me.”

To qualify for the scholarship, recipients need to serve two years of active military duty or be awarded the Purple Heart, a military decoration for soldiers wounded in action. He explains, “I was a veteran, and my sons were veterans who came back from the service and attended college. These veterans have sacrificed for us and if they’re fortunate enough to get back and have the opportunity to go to school, then that’s where I want to help.”

When Gilbert attended Eastern, he had already served in the U.S. Marine Corps in Vietnam and was married to his high school sweetheart, Sherry. Their sons, Sean and Brad, also served in the Marine Corps before coming to Eastern. Sean graduated in 2002, and has followed in his father’s footsteps with a career in banking at AmericanWest Bank in Spokane. Brad attended Eastern for a year before transferring to complete a mechanical engineering degree at another university.

The Gilberts are passionate about giving veterans the opportunity to be competitive in the job market. “I grew up thinking that college could make a difference,” said Gilbert. “Just as when I graduated in 1971, when there were no jobs – you’ve got to be able to offer something extra to a prospective employer. You’ve got to have an education.”
See the text within the image.
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