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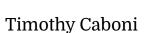
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WKU on track for record-setting year in private giving

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Western Kentucky University is on track for another record-setting year of fundraising.

The university announced Monday that it raised more than \$12.4 million in private gifts during the first six months of fiscal year 2019, which began July 1, 2018, and ends June 30.

In an email to faculty and staff, WKU President Timothy Caboni marked the amount as the second-highest total collected in the first six months of a fiscal year in the university's history.

"We expect to continue that pace into the second half of the year," Caboni wrote. "You will recall that last year we celebrated the largest dollar totals raised in the history of WKU."

Last July, WKU announced a record fiscal year total of more than \$45 million in private support. At the time, the 2017-18 fiscal year total represented a 23.9 percent increase in private giving compared to the previous year's record-breaking total of \$36.3 million, according to a news release.

According to Monday's announcement, the \$12,413,863 total represents outright gifts and does not include newly documented pledges or deferred gifts.

Caboni thanked several recent donors for their support, noting that philanthropy helps drive the university's success with enhancing students' experience and investing in strategic priorities. That includes gifts to the WKU Opportunity Fund for students with unmet financial needs when it comes to covering college costs. Caboni has previously set a university goal of raising \$50 million for that fund.

"Just a few recent examples include: C.J. and George Nichols who helped found our Intercultural Student Engagement Center; Kristen and Phillip Bale who funded activities of our Center for Leadership Excellence; the James Graham Brown Foundation whose gift, as part of the Opportunity Fund, helped to create and support our Center for Academic Resources and Success; and finally Sunshine and Joe Micatrotto who made the largest outright gift from a former student-athlete in our history benefiting capital projects, our football and volleyball programs, and the WKU Opportunity Fund," Caboni wrote in the email.



Gifts from George Nichols and Phillip Bale, both members of WKU's Board of Regents, total \$1.3 million and \$250,000, respectively.

John Paul Blair, WKU's interim vice president for Philanthropy and Alumni Engagement, said private support has become even more necessary in recent years.

"At no time in history has private support been more important and WKU is thankful for the strong relationships with alumni and friends." - Follow education reporter Aaron Mudd on Twitter @BGDN_edbeat or visit bgdailynews.com.

MORE INFORMATION



WKU announces record giving, prepares for next capital campaign $\overset{\textbf{Ad}}{\textbf{Ad}}$

Aaron Mudd

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