



West Virginia

Independent Colleges & Universities



2018 Annual Report

Championing independent higher education throughout the state of West Virginia.



**We Serve.
We Belong.
We Achieve.**



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WVICU is proud to serve eight not-for-profit member institutions.

Our mission is to advance collectively the interests of West Virginia's independent colleges and universities and their students.

WVICU is dedicated to: providing a personal and diverse education experience in West Virginia; responding quickly to student and societal needs; increasing student success; and engaging the future of West Virginia.



Message from the Chairman

The change West Virginia is going through is visible to us in the higher education community. We are seeing our economy transitioning to new industries while still leveraging our energy strengths. We are seeing the opportunities we have in tourism and technology related fields. We are seeing growing demand for quality, accessible, and affordable health care. And we are seeing a renewed focus on how our citizens learn and obtain their education.

West Virginia's elected officials and thought leaders are navigating the challenges and opportunities we currently face. As we witness the beginning stages of change one thing is clear, West Virginia needs more thinkers, creators, skilled leaders, and home-grown entrepreneurs to build a strong future. To that end, West Virginia Independent Colleges & Universities (WVICU) and our member institutions will be there to offer our perspectives and solutions for a brighter future in West Virginia.

This past year we have made a concerted effort to be more visible, more vocal, and more driven to increase our accomplishments and contributions to this great state. We fervently believe our colleges and universities not only drive positive results, but do so more effectively, in many instances, than our friends in the public sector. Consider the following:

- ◉ We SERVE: On average, roughly 40% of our eight institutions' students are low income. The state's public institutions' averages are the same. Our institutions are in nearly every geographic area of the state and have an over \$600 million annual economic impact.
- ◉ We BELONG: The state's policies for the past several years have been aimed to help public institutions, but policy makers are beginning to realize the significant contributions private universities make. We will be a bigger part of that conversation moving forward.
- ◉ We ACHIEVE: Our institutions have a 16% higher four-year graduation rate and a 10% higher six-year graduation rate than public institutions. Upon graduation private university students graduate ten months sooner and earn roughly \$4,000 per year more than public university students.

On behalf of the eight member-institutions and our board of directors thank you for supporting WVICU. Please continue to partner with us as we increase our voice and our impact while remaining focused on quality results – results that help put West Virginia on a better path forward.

DR. J. TIM BARRY

Board Chairman

President - Alderson Broaddus University



Circle of Vision

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The Circle of Vision Scholarship Program was started in 1997 and provides West Virginia students with the opportunity to attend one of our eight private colleges or universities. Many of these scholars are the first in their family to attend college.

WE SERVE



8,000 STUDENTS

WVICU institutions serve over **8,000 students** including nearly 4,000 West Virginia residents. 3,000 are first generation college students.

WE BELONG



\$650 MILLION

The total estimated annual economic impact of WVICU members is **\$650 million**.

WE ACHIEVE



+16% Grad Rate

The average four-year graduation rate at WVICU institutions is **16% higher** than WV's public institutions; and the six-year graduation rate is **10% higher**.

WVICU colleges and universities do not receive state government funding. WVICU institutions depend on corporations, foundations, and private partnerships to help make college more affordable for West Virginia students. Since 1997, Circle of Vision scholarships have been awarded to 3,304 students totaling \$5,993,875.

During the 2018-2019 academic year, the Circle of Vision Scholarship Program assisted sixty (60) students who demonstrated financial need and academic excellence with the total giving of more than \$350,000 distributed among all eight member institutions.



Circle of Vision



"After graduating from the BSN program, my goal is to attend the CAMC School of Nurse Anesthesia. I would like to stay in the Charleston area and work as a certified registered nurse anesthetist...the Circle of Vision Scholarship is allowing me the opportunity to graduate from the BSN program at the University of Charleston, and reach my life goals."

- Brooksanna Burgess, UC Graduate

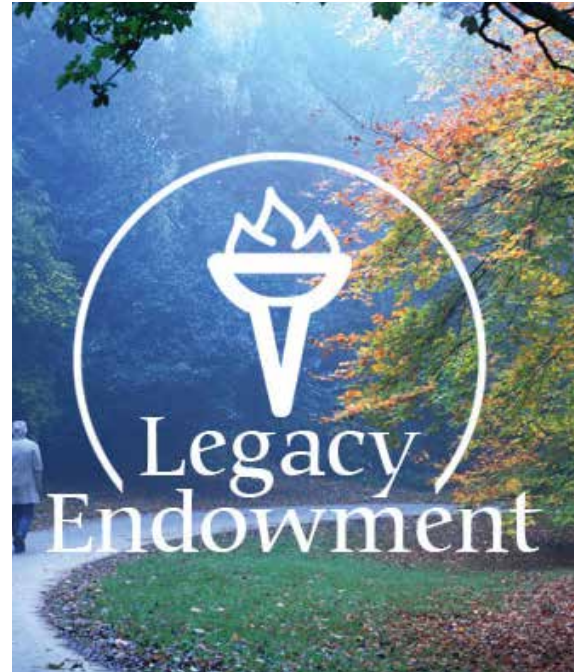
Legacy Endowment

SCHOLARSHIP FUND

WVICU established the Legacy Endowment Scholarship Fund in 2010. By contributing to this fund, you can make a permanent and positive difference in the lives of deserving West Virginia college students through planned or current giving.

Bequests from generous West Virginians helped establish this fund, which awards scholarships annually to West Virginia students at member colleges and universities through the Circle of Vision Scholarship Program.

Several large donations from individuals who believe in private higher education were combined to create this fund. Many others have contributed to the fund over time. The Legacy Fund has contributed a total of \$120,000 to the Circle of Vision Scholarship Program over the last six academic years.



The Legacy Fund's goal is to provide more than two Circle of Vision Scholarships each year through additional contributions and investments.





Featured Student: Matalyn Hayes

"I would like to personally thank the W.E. Stone Foundation for enabling me to reach my educational goals. Without this scholarship, attending college this year would not have been possible."



My education is one of the most important parts of my life. I am a very motivated individual who takes her education seriously. I always work my hardest and I will be able to continue to do so thanks to this scholarship.

I was raised in Tyler County and later moved to Ohio County and attended Wheeling Central Catholic High School. I was a cheerleader after moving and

made very good grades throughout high school. My family has always been very supportive of me; however, my mom did not have the money to send me to college like she wanted to. My parents got a divorce several years ago that depleted my mom's savings. She has done her best to provide for her three children on her own but unfortunately did not have the savings for college.

My educational goals have become very important to me. I have decided that I would like to be a nurse due to my own personal first-hand experience. My brother was diagnosed with Crohn's Disease at age seven. He faced several years of excruciating pain and my family was constantly stressed. He spent a lot of time in the hospital and the thing that stuck with me the most was how much of a difference

nurses and doctors make in people's hardest times. I am now determined to be able to provide comfort and help to families who are experiencing hardships. I know my education at Wheeling University is vital to reaching my goal. I dedicate the majority of my time working on my studies because I know it is the key to my success.

The **Circle of Vision Scholarship** gave me hope that I will be able to accomplish the most important goal of my life. I can honestly say that without this scholarship I would not have been able to continue my education.

I am very grateful to the W.E. Stone Foundation and the chance they are giving me to continue to further my education.



I will always remember how W.E. Stone Foundation made my college education possible. The Circle of Vision Scholarship gave me hope that I will be able to accomplish the most important goal of my life.

Featured Student: Rhone Thrash

“When I first stepped on to Bethany’s campus, I knew it was a special place. I believe that the student relationships with faculty and staff are the top in the country.”

I grew up in Parkersburg and attended Parkersburg High School. I was very active in school and served as captain of the tennis team, office assistant, peer mediator, president of the frisbee team, co-founder and president of 1189 biblical read club, school mascot, and choir member.

At Bethany, I worked hard to earn captain of the tennis team. I was also student associate to the president, student ambassador, vice president of psych club, president of the frisbee team, part-time pianist at church,

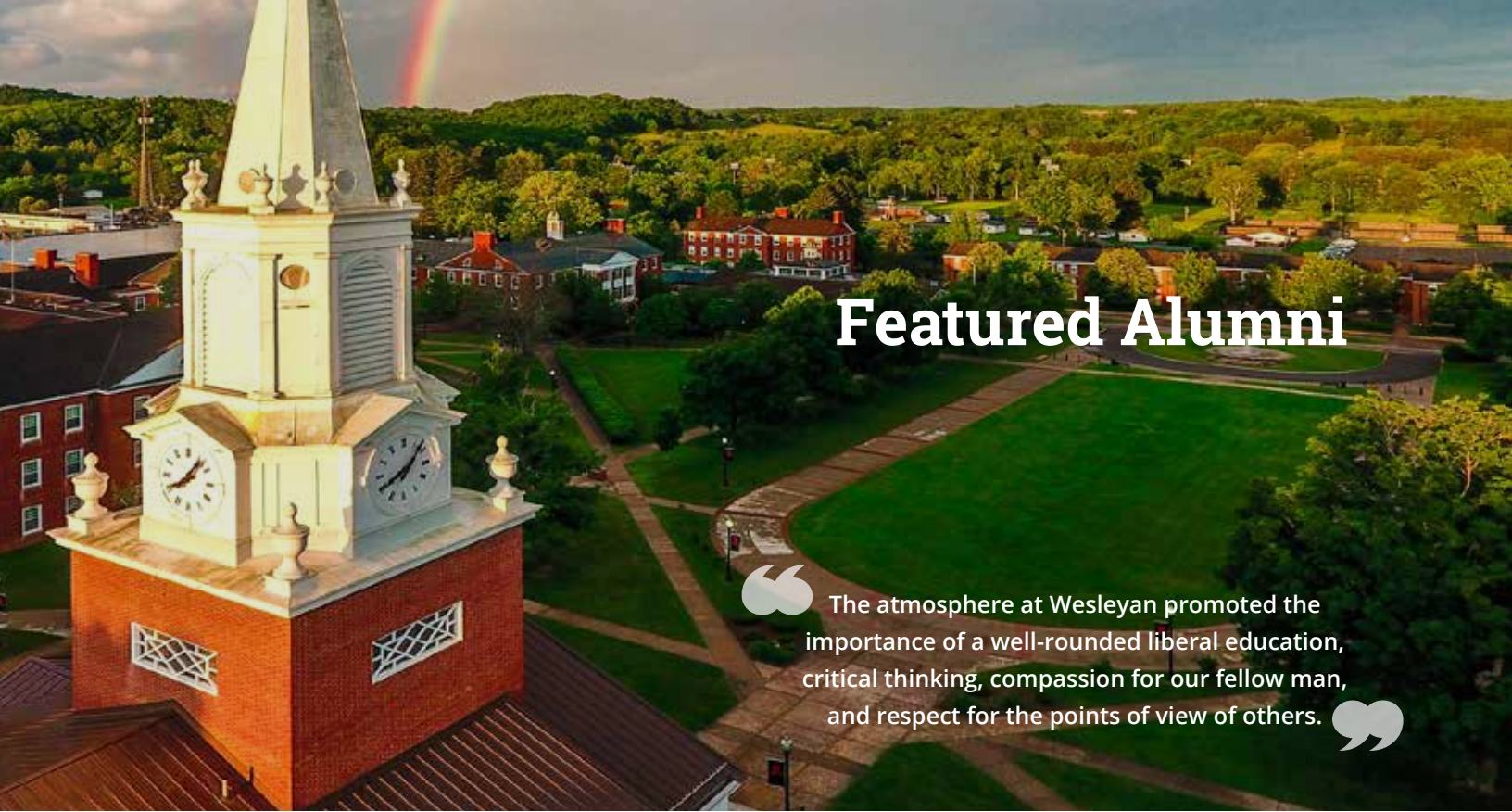
resident assistant, Kalan scholar, tutor, psych proctor, and student-teacher, and golf team member.

After stepping on campus for the first time, I knew Bethany was a special place. I enjoyed how easy it was to get involved. I believe that the student relationships with faculty and staff are the top in the country.

After Bethany, I plan to attend Marshall University for business school and eventually get my Ph.D. and become a college administrator.

“The Circle of Vision Scholarship and the McDonough Foundation have been instrumental in helping me pursue my education and shape my career path”





Featured Alumni

“ The atmosphere at Wesleyan promoted the importance of a well-rounded liberal education, critical thinking, compassion for our fellow man, and respect for the points of view of others. ”

West Virginia Wesleyan College, located in Buckhannon, West Virginia, challenges its students to a life-long commitment to develop their intellectual, ethical, spiritual, and leadership potential and to set and uphold standards of excellence.



Hon. John F. McCuskey

Hon. John F. McCuskey is the co-founder of Shuman, McCuskey & Slicer PLLC. He was appointed as a Justice on the Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia in 1998 and has been practicing law for over 40 years.

This year marks the 50th year since my graduation from West Virginia Wesleyan College.

Looking back from that retrospective on my half-century career in law and politics in West Virginia that followed my graduation, I can say that no decision over that span of time has been more important to my work-life success and happiness than choosing to attend Wesleyan.

The atmosphere at Wesleyan promoted the importance of a well-rounded liberal

education, critical thinking, compassion for our fellow man, and respect for the points of view of others.

Another important lasting gift that Wesleyan gave me was the opportunity to become friends and colleagues with students from all walks of life and from many countries and cultures.

I still vividly recall a special event in the old Wesleyan Chapel at which the Pulitzer Prizewinning poet, writer and scholar, Mark Van Doren, spoke to the student body and faculty about

the virtues of a liberal education. He addressed the faculty that day as “birds of multi-colored plumage.” This expression has stuck with me all these years as a proper description of the diversity and distinctness of the faculty and student body which made West Virginia Wesleyan the treasure that it was and is still today.

Giving Summary

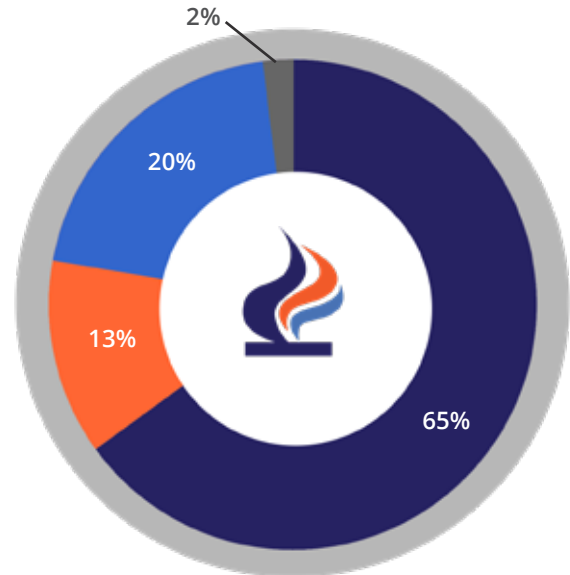
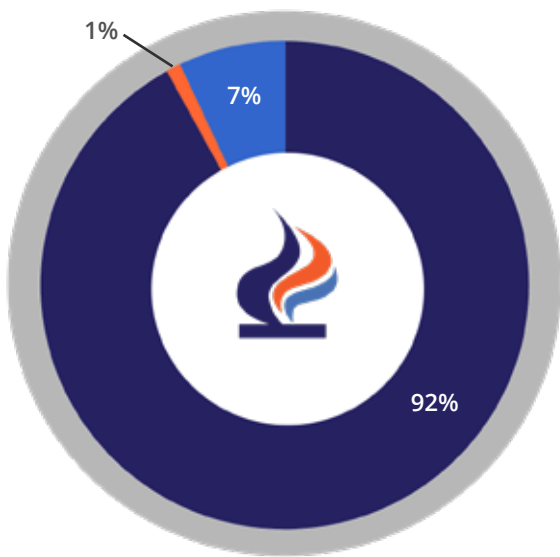
2018 Gifts & Funding Sources

2018 Types of Gifts:

Scholarships	\$ 373,908	92%
Designated & Restricted	\$ 5,500	1%
Gifts In-Kind	\$ 28,771	7%
TOTAL:	\$ 408,179	100%

2018 Sources of Funds:

Foundations	\$ 266,354	65%
Corporations	\$ 55,271	13%
Trusts	\$ 80,154	20%
Individuals	\$ 6,400	2%
TOTAL:	\$ 408,179	100%



Composite Data - Member Institutions

Students: 7,951 WV Residents: 3,485 2017 Graduates: 1,994 Budget: \$186,583,457 Endowment \$186,842,273

Join the Conversation

Follow us on Facebook [@wvicu](#) for news, events, and stories about WVICU, our member institutions, and the many students who are benefiting from our programs and partnerships.



Circle of Vision Scholarship Donors

On behalf of WVICU, we want to thank you for the support you have shown to our students through your contributions to the Circle of Vision scholarship fund. You are a vital component to the success of our schools and are helping give our students a quality education and an opportunity for a very bright future. We are grateful for your partnership.

\$50,000 & Above

Maier Foundation

\$25,000 - \$49,999

Council of Independent Colleges

McDonough Foundation

\$10,000 - \$24,999

Madge Douds Trust

Wilbur Aldine Stutler Trust

Driehorst Foundation

BrickStreet Foundation

Legacy Endowment Scholarship Fund

Bernard & Blanche Jacobson Foundation

Cecil I. Walker Charitable Trust

Steptoe & Johnson, PLLC

Schenk Charitable Trust

W.E. Stone Foundation

The Nutting Foundation

H.B. Wehrle Foundation

Carbon Fuel Foundation Fund

Council of Independent Colleges through its

CIC/UPS Educational Endowment

\$5,000 - \$9,999

Huntington Federal Savings Bank

Fenton Foundation

\$1,000 - \$4,999

John McCuskey

Wilbur S. Jones, Jr.

C. Hyde Tucker

Fred & Kara Williams

J.H. Fletcher

Tri State Roofing (Charleston)

Tri State Roofing (Parkersburg)

The Imperial Charitable Trust

Up to \$999

Rebecca Ceperley

Marc Chernenko

Eric Mohan

Betty Ireland

Lynch Foundation

The James & Law Company

Kanawha Roxalana



"My four years at Wesleyan have prepared me for a successful future, and I can't thank you enough for the financial support which has helped me in more ways than one."

- Kendra Gillenwater, WVWC Graduate

Board of Directors

Over the last year, WVICU has invested in revamping our marketing efforts and changing the way we communicate with the public. Social media plays a significant role in how we can effectively share our message that **We Serve, We Belong** and **We Achieve**. On our Facebook page you will find videos that support the importance of private higher education in West Virginia, donor recognition, student comments, as well as the latest news happening at each of our eight institutions. Our goal was to inject a renewed energy into WVICU and its fund raising program. Under the leadership of our new Executive Director, Ben Beakes, and the support of our board members and schools, we are doing just that. [Follow us @wvicu](#)

Officers

Dr. J. Tim Barry, Chairman
President, Alderson Broaddus University

Chris Wood, Vice-Chair (Academic)
President, Davis & Elkins College

Frank Baer, Vice-Chair (Business)

Hon. John F. McCuskey, Secretary

Julie Gurtis, Treasurer

University Presidents

Michael Ross, President
Ohio Valley University

Tamara Rodenberg, President
Bethany College

Ginny Favede, President
Wheeling University

Martin Roth, President
University of Charleston

Members At Large

Daniel Anderson, President
Appalachian Bible College

Joel Thierstein, President
West Virginia Wesleyan College

Non-Voting Member

Ben Beakes, Executive Director

Business Leaders

Peter Holloway

Eric Mohan

Cameron Nutting Williams

Fred Williams



"Words cannot express my gratitude for receiving the CIC/UPS scholarship. I truly appreciate this opportunity to help me pursue my dreams, as one of my aspirations in life is to help people find hope through service projects."

- Tayler Wagner, AB Junior



MEMBER INSTITUTIONS



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(800) 263-1549
www.ab.edu



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Mount Hope, WV 25880
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