with belief, we will thrive

During the initial years of this campaign, our visionary philanthropic partners generously stepped forward to demonstrate their deep belief in our university. They have provided a powerful foundation of leadership support that has propelled us well ahead of our initial fundraising projections—setting the trajectory for everything yet to come.

Goal: $100M
Raised to Date: $71.4M

FISCAL YEAR	CUMULATIVE GOAL	CUMULATIVE ACTUAL
FY 2021-22	$7,000,000	$8,500,076
FY 2022-23	$16,000,000	$28,016,080
FY 2023-24	$27,000,000	$37,630,631
FY 2024-25	$40,500,000	$51,798,800
FY 2025-26	$54,500,000	$70,153,745
FY 2026-27*	$58,125,000	$71,437,733

*only two months into the current FY.

with open hearts, we will THRIVE

Every effort has a leader or group of leaders willing to step forward, to put their reputation on the line, and to give of themselves to ensure success. With more than $70 million already secured, we have enormous momentum to reach our $100 million goal within the next three years. With strategic investment, you can be an integral partner in shaping a brighter future for our students, our community, and our university.

We are profoundly grateful to all of our donors, with special appreciation for those listed below who have made generous lead gifts.

Anonymous (12)
Frances Adams
Paula and Ted Adams '90
Advanced Orthopedics
Ashland Community Health Foundation
Ashland Rotary Foundation
Rodney Badger
Steve Bouck '82, MBA '84
Bryant and Baiba* Calhoun
Carpenter Foundation
Sue and Tim Cate
Jim Collier*
Sue and Mike Collins
Cris Craig and Brian Steely '71
Crankstart Foundation
Meredith Darrow
Robert J. and Leona DeArmond Foundation
Stephanie '91 and Bryan DeBoer '89
Karen and Sid DeBoer, Hon DHL '24
Dan Decena and Morgan Sammons
Barbara DeGroote*
Kristy Denman '71
Sandy and Art Diederich '67
Christine Donchin
Earth and Humanity Foundation
Todd Elworthy
Connie and Lee Erickson '71
Ella '82 and Matt Essieh '82, MBA '83
Margaret Evans
Susan Foster and David Bosworth*
Brian Frank '97
Linda Hammer-Brown and David Brown
Joni and Ron Hanson
Sue Harmon
Megan and Mark Helfrich '96
Lyn Hennion* and Alex Bellen
Mike Hoffman '72
Jan Holland and Larry Hunter
Julie and Don Jones
and the Laurel Spartan Foundation
Sally Jones and Ben Benjamin, MS '75
John Kearns
Janis Kuchler and Justin Smith
Katharine and Ron Lang
Jan Leasure and Howard Hartman '63, MS '69
Debra Lee and Peter Sage
Lithia & Driveway
Suellen '94 and Ron Lussier
Judy and Greg Miller
Mary Jane Morrison
Laura and Mike Naumes
Wanda and Sherm Olsrud*
Oregon Community Foundation
Tracy and Bob Palermini
Sue and Michael Polich
Samantha and Jason Reed '88
Robert Riehm*
Jocelyn and Ryan Ringer '07
Rogue Credit Union
Kristin '06 and Josh Rohlfing '07
Ruth Romoser* '65, MA '66
Candy and Ernie* Scalberg '67
Grazya and Frank Surma
Lark Stratton and Barry Harris
Jeanne Taylor
Karen Telian-Tyler and Stephen Tyler
Kathryn and Barry Thalden
Mary and Scooter Townsend
Barbara Tyler '64 and Tom Curran
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service National Forensics
Laboratory
Joyce and Donnell* Wadley '49
Bill Warren*
Grant Williams
Pam and Tim Williams '99
and Dwyer Williams Cherkoss Attorneys, PC
Lou* and Ron Worland
Megan and Rick Young, Jr. '97
Elisabeth Zinser

*deceased

MAKE A GIFT

SOU THRIVE REPORT

CAMPAIGN UPDATE » OCTOBER 2026

THRIVE is an unprecedented effort to raise $100 million to transform Southern Oregon University into the country's defining model of what a regional public university can be—small by choice and distinctive by design. We launched the campaign in July 2021, in the midst of the global COVID-19 pandemic. We acknowledge that setting a $100 million goal was extremely bold, given so much uncertainty—but we had confidence in and enthusiasm for the university's future.

With historic early support, it is now time to cast the net wider.

with commitment, we will thrive

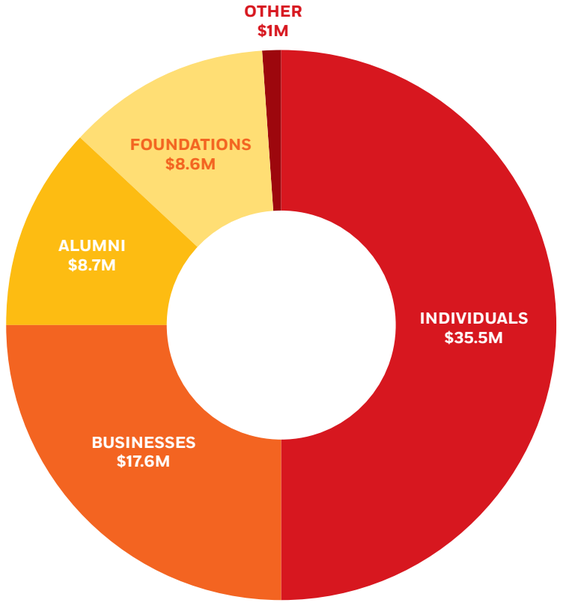
with collaboration, we will **THRIVE**

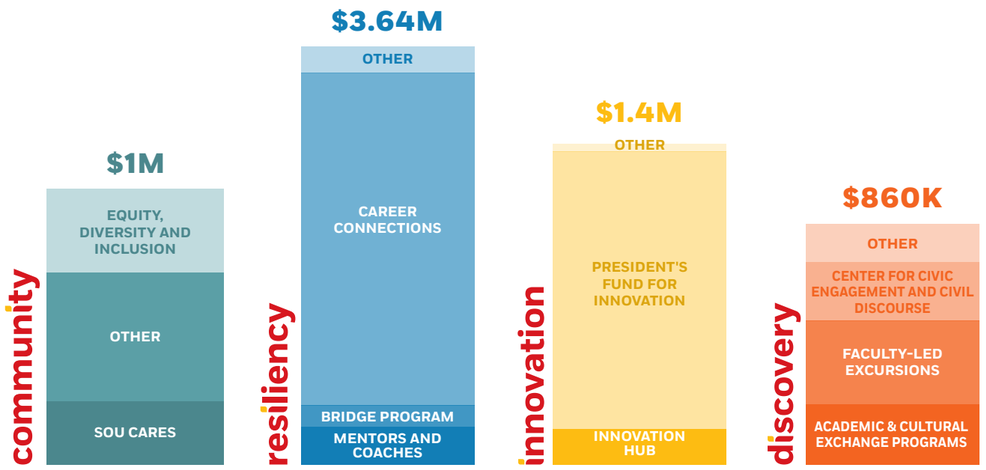
The impact of philanthropy can be felt across campus. Some examples include:

- New endowments support the University Coaching and Mentor Program, Choral and Vocal Studies, New Venture Competition, SOU CARES Program, and many others.
- Laurel Park, home to the national championship softball program, opened in 2026 and was funded entirely by donors.
- A new piano lab and vocal isolation booth have made it possible for music students to hone their craft using state-of-the-art equipment.
- New academic exchange programs with the University of Guanajuato in Mexico and Palm University in Ghana are providing cultural immersion opportunities for students.
- Through a robust partnership with Lithia & Driveway, student fellows in the Institute for Applied Sustainability are solving real-world climate problems and making a direct impact on local communities.
- Donors have made it possible to award nearly 3,500 scholarships, averaging $3,000 each. That translates to $9.4 million that has gone directly to support our students' educational dreams in just five years.
- Faculty Fellowships in Music, Education, Computer Science, Chemistry, and Environmental Science, Policy and Sustainability are fueling research and teaching and providing opportunities to engage students in collaborative learning.

with curiosity, we will **THRIVE**

More than 9,200 donors have contributed since the campaign began in 2021. Our donors are individuals and organizations who believe in the uniqueness of Southern Oregon University. They include community members who live nearby, corporations that recruit our graduates and host student interns, national foundations, statewide granting agencies, and alumni from every era of the university's history—whether they graduated from Southern Oregon College, Southern Oregon State College, or Southern Oregon University. This range of support reflects the broad appeal for students SOU serves, the region it calls home, and the potential impact of its graduates.





THRIVE is built around four pillars—**Community**, **Resiliency**, **Innovation**, **Discovery**—each representing the pivotal moments in every student's journey. These pillars are built upon a **foundation** of strong academic and student support programs that link learning to our regional communities.

connecting learning/campus core $64.5M

Academic Programs | Faculty Support | Scholarships | Athletics | Chamber Music Concerts | Osher Lifelong Learning Institute | Schneider Museum of Art | Youth Programs | Unrestricted | Other