

Eastern Washington University

Foundation Board News

August 13, 2025

Dear Board Members,

Every summer, the alumni team offers fun activities throughout Washington. This year's EWU Day at the Mariners drew a record 1,500 participants. Uriel Iniguez, Chair of EWU Board of Trustees, and Cooper Kupp threw the ceremonial pitches. EWU Night at the Spokane Indians is coming up. Drawing alumni close to the university is a significant positive force for building a strong philanthropic base.

The EWU Foundation is responsible for all fundraising activity on behalf of the university and the board of directors plays the vital role of oversight for that work. Directors determine investment, spending and gift acceptance policies, set the budget and objectives for fundraising efforts, and ensure proper stewardship of gifts. You also support EWU student success with your gifts to the Foundation.

Because of you, Eastern students can start and finish their college degrees. Thank you!


How do your gifts add up for EWU Students? [Click here](#) to see a graph of the current board's lifetime giving and where you have invested.

Watch your mailbox!

Pat Spanjer, director of stewardship and donor communications, is preparing a personalized impact report for each board member, which you will receive later this summer. You will learn about students like Yani Martinez, who knew she could make an even bigger impact as a social worker after 13 years as an early childhood educator. The scholarship she received at EWU made it financially possible for Yani to focus on her goals and the people she is preparing to serve.

Thank you for your dedication to Eastern Washington University. You make a difference for students and for the university.

Sincerely,



Laura Thayer

Interim Executive Director,
EWU Foundation &
Associate Vice President for
Philanthropy and Campaign
Engagement

Build Our Future Campaign

Last Month

\$76,927,472

This Month

\$77,425,358

Goal

\$100,000,000



Alumni Board members Raynee Miller, Rhonda Stevenson, Scott Fletcher and Isaac Reed III gather for EWU Day at the Seattle Mariners

Events and Dates

**Red Turf Takeover
One Spokane Stadium**
August 14

**West Plains Chamber
Breakfast on Roos**
August 20

**EWU Night at
Spokane Indians**
August 29

Move-in Weekend
September 18-19

**EWU Football vs.
Western Illinois**
September 20

**University Welcome
Convocation**
September 22

EWUF Meetings

**Finance and Audit
Committee Meeting**
August 21

**EWUF Executive
Committee Meeting**
September 11

**EWU Foundation
Board Meeting**
September 25



Fundraising Focus: Leave Your Mark on Campus!

Each September, new EWU students mark their first steps on campus as they walk up the brick pathway that leads to Showalter Hall in the Pass Through the Pillars tradition. The Brick Campaign, managed by our annual giving team, provides a unique opportunity to purchase a brick and leave your message along this historic walkway.

Proceeds from each brick sold support student scholarships and help us build a brighter future for the next generation of Eagles. These personalized bricks become a permanent part of campus, celebrating a special memory, inspiring new students, honoring a loved one or telling your unique story of accomplishment.

This year's bricks have been ordered and are on their way to campus now! They'll be placed in the Showalter Hall historic walkway just in time to welcome new students this September.

Ready to make your mark? Purchase a brick today at www.ewu.edu/brick and help us spread the word!



Spotlight: Linda Safford

Linda has served EWU as senior director of annual giving since 2022, bringing extensive experience in nonprofit leadership and fund development to the annual giving role.

As part of the philanthropy team, she oversees the Alumni G.O.L.D. (Graduates Of the Last Decade) program, Giving Tuesday and Giving Joy day—which aims to raise \$1 million in 2026. This year, the Annual Giving Team is adding “crowdfunding” to their fundraising toolbox and aims to introduce “Swoop In and Make It Yours” (more to come soon!) as part of the Giving Joy Day celebration.

“My husband, Bobby, returned to EWU in retirement to complete his undergraduate degree in history, and I just graduated with a Masters in Organizational Leadership,” she explained. “We both loved the experience and are proud to be Eagles for life!”

Off campus, Linda spends her time with her husband, nurturing plants and animals and staying connected to her six children, 14 grandchildren and a new great grandson. Linda will begin work on a PhD this fall!

EWU Graduates First Cohort of Nurses

This spring, EWU's School of Nursing graduated its first-ever cohort of nurses. This historic group of students is the first to complete the Bachelor of Science in Nursing Program and—perhaps equally impressive—all 40 students who began the program graduated together at the May 2 semester commencement ceremony. Washington state ranks in the top quarter of U.S. states facing severe nursing shortages. Our graduates are stepping up to meet the need and make a difference in our region; 39 of the 40 graduates plan to remain in state.

“Nursing is an applied discipline, so they started semester one in a skills lab and in a clinical setting working with patients,” says Donna Bachand, nursing program administrator and department chair, who designed and spearheaded the program. “I’m very proud of the work the faculty have done, the contribution these students have made, and the staff who are so committed to their success.”

Like so many EWU students, our first nursing cohort relied on financial aid and scholarships to help them finish their studies and begin careers in healthcare. Visit EWU.EDU/GIVE to learn more or to make a gift scholarship funds like the [Proud Eagle Nursing Scholarship Fund](#)—a fund established by two proud alumni-donors benefitting full-time nursing students!



(Left to right): EWU 2025 Nursing Graduates Kawthar Al Obid, Vatoria Keyes, Ashton Strobeck and Alexana Bueno