

GilletteCollege



Foundation

2024 ANNUAL REPORT



OUR MISSION

Our mission is to collaborate with our community partners to advance financial support for students, capital projects, and programs through fundraising activities, endowments, and donations.

307-681-6400
gillettecollegefoundation.org
300 W. Sinclair St.
Gillette, WY 82718



GILLETTE COLLEGE FOUNDATION BOARD

Front, left to right Lori Hubbard, Heidi Gross, Sue Knesel, Laurel Vicklund, Karen Clarke, Toni Bell, Dr. Holly Schamber, Charlene Camblin, Don McKillop, Jr., Maggi McCreery, M.D., Nathan McLeland, Amanda Hauck, Jean Kingan, Tom Dillon, Dave Horning, Ryan Conklin, Tad Daly, Toby Gorsuch, Steve Laakso



I am so proud of the great work that Gillette College Foundation accomplished this past year! The Foundation received \$1 million in state matching funds from the Wyoming Legislature this past April. Since then, the board has diligently secured donor commitments. As of today, we have secured funding for \$650,000 of the \$1 million allocation. We are grateful to those donors who have put their trust in our mission and board.

The Foundation board also engaged campaign counsel to assist us as we proceed with the Enzi Center for Applied Learning campaign. An architect has been retained and we anticipate conceptual drawings by spring of next year. In the next few months, faculty, staff, and administration will all be engaged in stakeholder meetings to guide the design process and ensure the building design will meet the needs of our students and our community.

This past year, the foundation awarded \$286,540 in academic scholarships and provided \$269,962 in program support. We could not fulfill our mission of advancing student success by reducing financial barriers without your support.

I hope this holiday season is filled with blessings and wonderful memories for you and yours!

Warmly,

Heidi Gross
Gillette College Foundation Executive Director

OUR YEAR IN NUMBERS

\$286,540

Dollars awarded in scholarships
by the Foundation

\$269,962

Total program support

\$1,033,376

Total contributions



What a remarkable community we are part of, and how fortunate Gillette College is to have a robust partnership with the Gillette College Foundation. These collaborations are vital to our achievements! Your unwavering support, encouragement, and dedication to Gillette College have made 2024 an extraordinary year in our institution's journey. Thanks to you, we are truly entering a new era and laying the groundwork for many successful years ahead.

Reflecting on the past year, it's important to pause and recognize the successes and milestones we've accomplished. Our primary focus has always been our students. With the generous support of our community, the Gillette College Foundation received \$1,033,376 in total contributions, which significantly aids students in reaching their career aspirations. It was a privilege to honor these student success stories at the annual Scholarship Night held in November. This past year, our campus dedicated itself to meeting accreditation milestones, expanding academic and student opportunities, and serving our community and industry partners while preparing for a transformative future. The Board of Trustees worked diligently to finalize policies, navigate funding, and guide the institution through the next steps as the Gillette Community College District expands its footprint. The arrival of the fall semester brought the excitement of our second year with athletics and the fantastic performances of Energy City Voices. Amidst this progress, staff and faculty met pivotal benchmarks to solidify our independent accreditation status. We completed two essential steps in the accreditation process and are on track with our accreditation objectives. There is much to celebrate as we look forward to 2025 and its projects and milestones.

Students are at the heart of everything we do at Gillette College, and the Gillette College Foundation plays an essential role in their success. The strength of the Foundation comes from our exceptional supporters, and I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all of you for partnering with us as we help students transform their lives.

Looking to the future, I am filled with excitement about the possibilities that lie ahead. On behalf of the Gillette College faculty and staff, we invite you to join us in our journey as we celebrate our past and look forward to an exciting future as we aim to become the premier community college in the great state of Wyoming. It's a fantastic time to be a Pronghorn!

Janell Oberlander
President
Gillette Community College District

MEET OUR GILLETTE COLLEGE ALUMNI & SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



ALUMNI | CASSIA CATTERALL

Meet Cassia Catterall! Cassia graduated in 2017 with her associate in education. "I hope to one day teach English at the Community College or University level." Cassia completed her Master of Arts in English through the University of Wyoming and currently works for the Campbell County School District.

She feels very fortunate to have received an academic scholarship at Gillette College that covered her tuition and fees. "I consider myself fortunate to have made it through my first two years of college without debt, and I'm thankful for the experiences Gillette College gave me. From the learning and the friendships to the people I've met while attending school."

Cassia is a very smart, driven, motivated person. She has an infectious smile and a positive attitude. Gillette is very fortunate to have her reporting our most influential stories. Gillette College is very proud to say Cassia Catterall is our Alumni!



ALUMNI | CRISTIAN MARTINEZ

Meet Cristian Martinez! Cristian graduated in 2020 with his degree in general studies, then continued his education through the University of Wyoming with his bachelor's in marketing.

Cristian has spent most of his childhood in Campbell County and was a graduate of Thunder Basin High School. He received a scholarship offer to play soccer for the Gillette Pronghorns in 2018 but broke his foot which led him to red shirt his freshman year. Cristian was able to heal and recover in time for the next soccer season and loved playing for Gillette until he graduated.

Cristian has inspirational drive and fresh ideas that will carry his marketing knowledge to a whole new level. He hopes to one day have a sports marketing career in the big leagues but is having fun building his experience at Gillette College. The community of Gillette is very lucky to have such a shining star representing us, and Gillette College is proud to have him as our Alumni Spotlight!



ALUMNI | JAYDEN VASQUEZ

Jayden grew up in Wright, Wyoming. He is the oldest of three kids. His younger siblings are involved in school and sports and he was looking for an option close to home to be still involved with his family. Jayden was drawn to Gillette College for many reasons, but the number of scholarships and financial opportunities offered gave him the chance to put himself through college debt-free.

Jayden graduated from Gillette College with an associates in engineering and mathematics. Jayden then went on to the University of Wyoming getting his bachelor's in civil engineering. HDR Engineering, Inc now employs him. His plans include working and developing his professional and leadership skill as well as gaining designing and construction experience. "Going to high school in Wright and college in Gillette allowed me to be involved in multiple sports, clubs, and activities, which helped me develop my communication and networking skills. I will always be grateful for where I am from and how the community supported me and watched me grow."



SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT | TIMOTHY BLINKINSOP

Tim is studying human services and social work. He is in his second year at Gillette College and is very grateful his path has led him here. Tim had a rocky history with school since the age of 13. He struggled to absorb the lessons being taught and found out later he had an undiagnosed learning disability. As a young child, Tim repeatedly rebelled and pushed the limits of the law. The last thing on his mind was higher education of any sort. It took a few years post graduating high school for him to hit a point of realization in his life that he wanted more than what the walls of jail had to offer.

Gillette College has opened so many doors for Tim. He is involved with student senate, and many activities around campus. He loves how Gillette College is affordable, friendly, and all the staff have been extremely helpful. Tim is very grateful Gillette College has given him the opportunity and direction to start something that will impact his life for the better.

MEET OUR GILLETTE COLLEGE ALUMNI & SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT | KAITLYN SCHWARTZ

Kaitlyn has been at Gillette College for almost a year. Her major is health science, and she is working on becoming an ultra-sound tech. After high school, Kaitlyn had no plans to attend higher education. She was going straight to the workforce. Six months later she realized she wanted a real career. Possibly one in healthcare, she needed to get her degree to fulfill her career goals. Gillette College was convenient, local, and affordable; and offered the courses she needed. "All the faculty and staff have been more than helpful with all my questions."

Kaitlyn has also benefited from a total of 3 scholarships! "I am so grateful to have the Hathaway and other scholarships. It relieves the financial burden while attending school full time and working." We are excited Kaitlyn is here and pursuing a lifelong career. Good luck Kaitlyn! We can't wait to see where life takes you.



SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT | ASHILYNN KEETLEY

Ashilynn is starting her third year at Gillette College. She is double majoring in criminal justice and social sciences. She is very involved in the college with student government and PTK.

When Ashilynn first graduated high school she was unsure of what she wanted to do or if college was even a right fit. She decided to stay in Gillette and try some courses at Gillette College. It was much more affordable than other schools, and she didn't want to accrue debt deciding if college was the right choice for her. The staff and faculty were so helpful and welcoming her. Ashilynn knew she made the right decision. She has received multiple scholarships that have eased the financial burden and made it easier to concentrate on school. She also got a job at the bookstore for a year, and now has a job at a law firm where she is working inline with her future goals as a paralegal.

Ashilynn is a very smart, driven, and humble person. I enjoyed speaking with her and listening to her journey and how that has led her to Gillette College. Good luck Ashilynn! Your future is so bright.

VETERAN'S SPOTLIGHT

ELLIE WILSON



Ellie was born and raised in Riverton, Wyoming. She has been married for 20 years this October and has 2 children that keep her very busy. Any free time she has is spent riding her Harley.

Ellie is a very smart and motivated woman. She received 5 different scholarships at Gillette College. She accredits all the scholarships for allowing her to go back to school. "The funds helped me pay for my education and support my family. It is hard to go back to school as an adult with responsibilities, but these scholarships took a great deal of stress away and allowed me to focus on my education."

Ellie is still taking courses online through a university and working towards her bachelor's degree in Elementary Education. She still plans on taking 2 additional classes at Gillette College in the Fall. While taking on a full course load, Ellie also works as a substitute teacher in the Campbell County School district.

Ellie is not only Gillette College Alumni she is a Veteran. She was a Military Police Officer (MP or 31B) in the U.S. Army for 4 years. Ellie was stationed in Fort Polk, Louisiana training post, where she was constantly training to deploy. Her unit helped during the aftermath of both Hurricane Katrina and Rita. Shortly after that, Ellie deployed to Iraq where her unit had multiple missions, such as training the Iraqi police, helping patrol the streets of Baghdad, and escorting important personnel. Those were only a few of the many important missions they oversaw. When Ellie returned to the states, she joined Military Police Investigations (MPI), which was a department focused on small crimes and domestic issues.

Gillette College is beyond proud to have such a brave, driven, educated, and amazing woman be part of our Alumni. Thank you Ellie! For your service to our country and continuing to better your community through education.

SCHOLARSHIP DINNER

In November, the Foundation board celebrated student success at its annual scholarship dinner. This event is an opportunity for our students to meet our donors and share with them their experiences. Donors are given the opportunity to experience firsthand the impact their gifts make on our students. We also recognized our annual award winners. This year we recognized Peg and Larry Smith as Individual Builders of the Year, Eric and Kelly Barlow as the recipients of our Spirit of Gillette College award and Powder River Construction as the Corporate Builder of the Year. We are so grateful for their support!





NIGHT AT THE COSMOS CASINO NIGHT

Our annual casino night was a great success, even though the weather outside was frightful! Our guests had a great time playing blackjack, craps and roulette. This year, the foundation raised \$145,000. The funds were used to support the Energy City Voices Program and foundation operations. Dr. Joe Lawrence, a past Gillette College Foundation board member, was honored with the Spirit of Gillette College Award. We are so thankful for his support of Gillette College. Thank you to all our guests and sponsors! We are busy planning our next annual casino night and hope to see you there!



23RD ANNUAL ENERGY CUP GOLF SCRAMBLE

This year we celebrated our 23rd Energy Cup Golf Scramble! We raffled off some great prizes and everybody had a great time while supporting our students and programs. We are so grateful for all our sponsors and players, we look forward to seeing you at Bell Nob next August!



2025 SCHEDULE

The Gillette College Foundation proudly presents our 2025 events and fundraisers! Will you be joining us in the fun? Take a look at what we have coming up this year!

CASINO NIGHT 70'S STYLE

April 11th, 2025

WYOGIVES

July 16th, 2025

ENERGY CUP CHALLENGE GOLF SCRAMBLE

August 8th, 2025



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