



2025 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, Robbie McLeland, Charlene Camblin, Sue Knesel, Heidi Gross-Executive Director, Don McKillop Jr., Karen Clarke, Holly Schamber, Dr. Janell Oberlander-GCCD President

Back row: Tad Daly, Steve Laakso, Laurel Vicklund, Amanda Hauck-Administrative Assistant, Tom Dillon, Darin Edmonds, Dave Horning. Not pictured: Toni Bell, Ryan Conklin

Dear Friends,

As I reflect on this past year, I'm struck by the extraordinary resilience, generosity, and determination that define our community. In a time when challenges continue to evolve, your support has allowed us not only to respond but to grow, innovate, and deepen our impact.

This past year, we strengthened partnerships, completely allocated \$1 million in state matching funds, began focused fundraising for the Enzi Applied Learning Center, and provided \$660,923 in program and scholarship support. Whether it was through direct support, advocacy, education, or community-building, each milestone was made possible because you chose to stand with us. Your belief in our mission fuels everything we do.

I'm especially proud of how our team embraced new ideas and implemented a new software system to make our work more efficient and provide timely, impactful information to you, our donors.

As we look ahead, we remain focused on our students, our donors, and making the Enzi Applied Learning Center a reality. The work is far from finished, but with your continued partnership, I'm confident that the year ahead will bring even greater progress.

Thank you for your trust, your advocacy, and your unwavering support. It is an honor to lead this organization, and I'm grateful to be on this journey with you.

With appreciation,
Heidi Gross
Executive Director
Gillette College Foundation

OUR YEAR IN NUMBERS

\$315,297

Dollars awarded in scholarships
by the Foundation

\$345,626

Total program support

\$1,676,654

Total contributions



Dear Friends and Supporters,

On behalf of the Gillette Community College District, I extend my thanks for your continued support. Without you, we could not have had the remarkable year of growth, innovation, and achievement within our campus community. Over the past year, Gillette College has continued to deliver exceptional educational opportunities, expand our programs, and invest in student success.

Our faculty and staff have been dedicated to fostering a learning environment where every student can reach their full potential. We launched new initiatives and workforce development programs tailored to the needs of our region, and our students have excelled both in the classroom and through hands-on experiences. From supporting local industry partnerships to hosting engaging community events, Gillette College remains a vital part of our community's progress.

None of this would be possible without the steadfast support of the Gillette College Foundation. The partnership between the college and the foundation is crucial to our mission. Your generosity provides scholarships, enhances facilities, and ensures that we can continue to offer transformative educational experiences. Together, we are opening doors for students and building a brighter future for our community.

Thank you for believing in Gillette College and for your continued commitment to our shared vision. With your support, we look forward to another year of opportunity, achievement, and partnership.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Janell Oberlander". It is a cursive script with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.

Janell Oberlander
President
Gillette Community College District

MEET OUR GILLETTE COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT | BRIAN GOICH

I chose Gillette College after moving from Riverton, Wyoming, where I grew up on the Wind River Reservation. My goal was to pursue a career that would allow me to build a positive and healthy future for both myself and my seven-year-old daughter, Embrie.

During this semester, I have been fortunate to receive three scholarships. This support has played a vital role in helping cover my educational and daily living expenses, allowing me to focus fully on my studies while continuing to provide for my family. Through education, I am creating a strong foundation for a brighter future for my daughter and myself.



SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT | DAVID CATON

After a major turning point in my life, I chose to attend Gillette College while committed to recovery and rebuilding my future. With the support of the workforce system, parole, and Gillette College, enrolling in the diesel program gave me structure, accountability, and a clear career path.

Scholarships from the Gillette College Foundation, including the Richard M. Baker, Jason Lee Haight Memorial, Boundless Opportunity, and Kickstart Wyoming's Tomorrow Scholarships, removed financial barriers and allowed me to fully focus on my education and hands-on training.

Today, I am living clean, working toward diploma completion, and preparing for a long-term career in the diesel industry. I am deeply grateful to Gillette College, the Foundation, and the donors whose belief in me helped rebuild not just my education, but my future—for myself, my son, and my family.

MEET OUR GILLETTE COLLEGE ALUMNI



ALUMNI | JEREMY BLAZEK

Gillette College was the perfect fit for Jeremy, allowing him to stay close to family and friends while opening doors to meaningful career opportunities. He enjoyed learning a variety of welding techniques and exploring the many pathways available in the field, all while forming lasting friendships. After graduating, he spent 11 years working in welding and fabrication at the Cordero Mine, and he has now returned to Gillette College as a Welding Instructor, giving back to the program that helped shape his career.



ALUMNI | JESSICA HERMANN

Jessica chose Gillette College for her nursing education because of its strong reputation as one of Wyoming's top nursing programs and the opportunity to remain close to home and family. While in school, she worked throughout her studies, supported by a strong network of family and friends.

At Gillette College, she valued the dedication of her instructors and the program's hands-on learning approach, including early experiences in the newly established SIM lab and birthing simulator. After graduating, she began her career in internal medicine at the Main Clinic, where she built a strong clinical foundation before pursuing her passion in Home Health and Hospice. Today, she serves in a supervisory role, continuing to grow as a nurse and leader while making a meaningful difference in the lives of others—an example of how Gillette College prepares students to lead with skill, compassion, and purpose.

MEET OUR GILLETTE COLLEGE ALUMNI



ALUMNI | KATIE BRENNER

Katie began her journey at Gillette College as a dual-enrollment student during her sophomore year of high school, taking English and paramedic modeling courses through the BOCHES program, which covered her tuition. As she progressed through high school, she continued enrolling in dual-credit courses and, after graduating, remained at Gillette College on a high academic scholarship to complete an Associate of Applied Science degree. Although she initially planned to transfer to Black Hills University, she ultimately chose to continue at Gillette College based on affordability, living considerations, and the strong support she received, later earning an associate's degree in applied business. During her time at Gillette College, she valued the opportunity to explore a variety of academic disciplines and appreciated the close-knit, welcoming relationships among faculty, staff, and students. Professionally, she gained experience in hospitality and healthcare nutrition before discovering a passion for supporting students earlier in their educational journeys. Today, she works in Enrollment and Admissions at Gillette College, with a focus on dual enrollment, where she is proud to help students find the path that best fits their goals and future.

VETERAN'S SPOTLIGHT



TONY MERCHEN

Born in the Gillette area, Tony Merchen spent several years away before returning home in 1996 after serving five years in the U.S. Army as a military police officer, with deployments in Honduras and Germany. After raising his son and building a career in supply companies, Tony reached a pivotal moment—realizing he wanted more stability and opportunity for his future. Determined to invest in himself, he took advantage of VA funding and returned to Gillette College to pursue degrees in electrical technology and business. Now in his second semester, Tony is thriving as a full-time student, balancing his studies with work at NARM and embracing every challenge ahead with confidence and determination. When he's not in class, he enjoys riding his motorcycle, hunting, and fishing, grateful to be back in a community he calls home. With the support of two scholarships from the Foundation, Tony has been given the time and opportunity to focus on his education and build a brighter, more secure future. Your generosity is helping students like Tony turn experience, perseverance, and hard work into lasting success.

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 Nathan and Robbie McLeland as Individual Builders of the Year, Judith Semple as the recipients of our Spirit of Gillette College award and HDR Foundation as the Corporate Builder of the Year. We are so grateful for their support!





CASINO NIGHT 70'S STYLE

This year's gala was a great success! This year, we added a few more games and our guests had a great time! The foundation raised more than \$157,860. The funds supported foundation operations and our nursing program. Thank you to all our guests and sponsors! We are busy planning our next casino night and hope to see you there!



24TH ANNUAL ENERGY CUP GOLF SCRAMBLE

This year we celebrated our 24th Annual Energy Cup Golf Scramble! Thanks to our incredible sponsors and players, we raised over \$65,000 for our students and programs. From raffling off a custom golf cart to enjoying a great day on the course, it was a huge success. A special congratulations to our winner, Deb Zoloski! We are so grateful for your support and can't wait to see everyone back at Bell Nob next August.



2026 SCHEDULE

The Gillette College Foundation proudly presents our 2026 events and fundraisers! Will you be joining us in the fun? Take a look at what we have coming up this year!

CASINO NIGHT PIRATES PLUNDER

April 10, 2026

WYOGIVES

July 15, 2026

ENERGY CUP CHALLENGE GOLF SCRAMBLE

July 31, 2026



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