

THE GOLDEN EAGLE CALL

EWU RETIREES ASSOCIATION FALL 2024



EASTERN IS **BUILDING A FUTURE** FOR STUDENTS

Eastern Washington University recently kicked-off the final phase of its first-ever comprehensive fundraising campaign, a 10-year push to raise \$100 million for an impressive array of student-centered programs and initiatives.

The campaign, dubbed “Build Our Future: The Campaign for Eastern,” began its so-called “quiet phase” seven years ago.

Thus far, EWU Foundation officials say, EWU’s quiet-phase donors have given more than \$68 million to support scholarships and funds that enhance programs, provide hands-on learning experiences, and develop innovative hubs and facilities.

EWU’s generous supporters have made 4,867 scholarship awards possible so far – and that is just the beginning.

EWU President Shari McMahan says every gift to the campaign, no matter the size, strengthens the foundation and mission of EWU.

“Our generous donors are helping to create more opportunities to invest in the people, programs, and possibilities that define Eastern Washington University. Together, we are building a brighter future for our students and the communities we serve,” says McMahan, who personally pledged \$100,000 toward the campaign.

Gifts to Build Our Future provide opportunities for students of all backgrounds to earn life-changing degrees and a path to successful careers. Since the university’s humble beginning as a school for educators, Eastern has graduated more than 125,000 professionals who’ve strengthened workplaces and communities.

Barb Richey, EWU vice president for university advancement and executive director of the EWU Foundation, heads up the comprehensive campaign effort. Richey says sharing the stories and dreams of students, and the many ways private gifts can support an institution, resonates with EWU supporters. “It’s so amazing what philanthropy does,” she says.

To learn more about Build our Future, visit ewu.edu/buildourfuture.

EWU IS THE REGION’S **POLYTECHNIC**

As the region’s polytechnic, EWU is expanding on what it has done so well for so long – providing students with hands-on experiences that prepare them for professional success, while strengthening communities along the way.

Across EWU’s four colleges, applied learning is playing out in different ways. Here are a few of the many examples:

College of Professional Programs:

Social work students connect homeless library patrons, in downtown Spokane, with social services.

College of Health Science & Public Health:

Speech therapy students work with Parkinson’s patients to help them maintain their ability to talk.

College of Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences:

Urban and regional planning students performed a feasibility study for the Healing Lodge of the Seven Nations tribal youth treatment center in Spokane Valley.

College of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics:

EWU cybersecurity students provide security monitoring for small local and regional municipalities.

Learn more at ewu.edu/polytechnic.

JOIN EWURA!

Fill out the enclosed membership form to join our group.

MONTHLY MEETINGS

When: The third Thursday of the month, September through May

Time: Social time with coffee and baked goods, 9:30-10 a.m. Guest speaker presentation, 10-11 a.m.

Where: 205 Monroe Hall, Cheney campus

EWURA BOARD 2024-2025

Morag Stewart, President
Keith Adolphson, Vice President
Wendy Repovich, Past President and
Foundation Representative
Ron Dalla, Treasurer and Secretary
John Bruntlett, Member-at-Large
Floyd Cloke, Member-at-Large
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TREASURER'S OCT. REPORT

AS OF AUG. 31, 2024:

Current Market Value:.....\$188,470.63
Principal:\$131,743.43

AS OF SEPT. 19, 2024:

Golden Eagle Scholarships:\$32,039.18

AS OF OCT. 15, 2024:

STCU Checking Account:\$2,563.01

ALUMNI LICENSE PLATES SUPPORT SCHOLARSHIPS



Purchase an EWU Alumni License Plate and nearly \$30 of every fee goes toward the Alumni Legacy Scholarship fund.

DEAR RETIREES,



I recall a memorable day in my life, the day I turned 50! The day I was eligible to join AARP. I have renewed my membership every year since. Why? You may well ask. Initially I was attracted by discounts, particularly those that were travel-related. Today, I scan each monthly publication for health related news tips and breakthroughs in the treatment of age-related conditions such as dementia; two tips I remember well: the benefits of socialization; and the benefits of cognitive use of the brain. Based on this scientific research, I can assure you attending EWURA meetings will improve your health! We start with a social half hour, refreshments are provided, followed by speakers on topics of intellectual interest.

Starting our 2024-2025 year was Erik Budsberg, director of sustainability, who updated us on the Prairie Restoration Project. We heard from three student-researchers. This was a facts-filled talk with memorable moments. A resounding "Bravo" went through my mind when a graduate student, who lost 5 of 6 planted areas for a control research project due to a wildfire, expanded her research to study the impact of fire on the soil! WOW, what a resilient and innovative student!

Although American football is far from a favorite sport of mine, I thoroughly enjoyed Paul Delaney's talk in October. Paul emphasized his role as a reporter for the Cheney Free Press covering EWU sports among other assignments. In his career he has amassed over 200,000 action shots! The journalist in him sought out the stories behind the headlines. He is an EWU alumnus who found the perfect match between his passion and his education.

I look forward to hearing about salmon restoration for local rivers; enjoying a Holiday gathering; then an anthropology research presentation. We are a congenial group with a wide range of backgrounds and interests, united by years of service at EWU, and a desire to fund EWU scholarships for the next generation.

Morag Stewart
EWURA President

MEET SAGE NORTON

EWURA SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT



This year EWURA awarded a scholarship to a student in each of EWU's four colleges.

Sage Norton, a 30-year-old visual communication design senior at Eastern Washington University, was named as a recipient of the Golden Eagle Scholarship for the 2024-25 academic year.

Norton earned her Associate of Arts in graphic design from Spokane Falls Community College before transferring to EWU to earn her bachelor's degree.

"I never thought I'd do something with art for a job," she admits, "but I decided to go for it."

Now immersed in classes focused on web development, front-end coding and animation, Norton is excited for the future. She plans to become a front-end web developer and designer, melding her artistic talents and technical skills. She also has a larger dream of creating a video game, saying "I already have a game I'm conceptualizing."

MEET SAGE NORTON CONTINUED...

Norton grew up in Dana Point, California during the school year and spent summers visiting her dad in Spokane. As a married homeowner juggling fulltime classes with working nights and weekends at Europa Restaurant & Bakery, she appreciates that she can take courses at the Catalyst, in Spokane, and online. "The faculty and students are amazing—it's been a really good experience."

A competitive classroom project turned into applied learning when she and a classroom partner were chosen to work for 49° North Mountain Resort, designing educational signage honoring tribal lands and connections.

Norton and her partner collaborated with the ski hill and Kalispel and Spokane tribes to design 15 signs featuring native animals with their names in a form of Salish that honors both tribes. "It was real-life work experience that turned into a freelancing gig," she says proudly.



Norton was thrilled to be chosen as one of four EWURA Golden Eagle Scholarship recipients this year. She received the news a few months after losing her father, who was an enthusiastic supporter of her education and career goals.

"It felt like a weight was lifted," she says of the mental boost the scholarship provided. "It meant so much, not just for the money but for the validation of my hard work. It's amazing to know someone's looking out for you."



Signs designed by Norton

MEET ANNETTE CARPENTER

EWURA SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT



Annette Carpenter, 19, is driven to help people. Carpenter, of Soap Lake, Washington, hit the ground running when she arrived at EWU in 2023 with two years of credits under her belt and ready to advance her education. Today, she is working toward a double major in psychology and gender, women's and sexuality studies.

"I knew going into psychology that I wanted to work with people and now I have a more solid sense of direction," says Carpenter, who plans to advance to graduate school to earn a Doctor of Psychology degree.

Carpenter is grateful to receive the EWURA Golden Eagle Scholarship, saying, "My biggest thing is just to say thank you."

Although Carpenter holds down a work-study job in the Student Employment Office, the scholarship provides some wiggle room to explore diversity courses to help ensure she can build the inclusive practice she wants as a future counselor and researcher.

Carpenter is looking forward to internships in clinical work and applying research – not just doing research.

"Wanting to be more clinical, of course, my main focus is getting people help and mental help that's like going to be scientifically sound and actually help them," Carpenter says.

Although Carpenter is still in the middle of her educational journey, getting started at EWU made perfect sense. Not only is it affordable, it's a short 2-hour drive from her hometown, she says, and her older sister is an EWU grad. "Going to Eastern was kind of like a no-brainer for me," Carpenter says.

IN MEMORIAM

We'd like to take a few moments to honor these retirees who passed away over the past few months. We extend our condolences to their loved ones along with our gratitude for the impact they made for the Eastern students and campus community.

James Allers, retired staff in building maintenance, served at the university for 30 years, and passed away on July 8, 2024.

Achilles (Kelly) Balabanis, faculty emeritus in music, served EWU for 25 years, and passed away on May 29, 2024.

Shirley Dacey, retired staff, served the university for 20 years, and passed on July 19, 2024.

Janice Fanning, retired staff in art, served the university for 22 years, and passed away on June 11, 2024.

Doris Hamberger, retired staff in dining services, served at EWU for 31 years, and passed away on Aug. 13, 2024.

Barbara Tish, retired staff in the library, served the university for 19 years, and passed away on Aug. 15, 2024.

Dawn McClenahan, retired staff in parking, served at EWU for 31 years, and passed away on Aug. 15, 2024.

Elizabeth Cook-Lynn, faculty emeritus in the Department of English, passed away July 5, 2023. Cook-Lynn, a member of the Crow Creek Lakota Tribe, served the university for 19 years, sharing her expertise in American Indian studies.

THANK YOU TO OUR GOLFERS!

Thank you to everyone who participated in the EWURA Golf League this past summer. The league, which plays at The Plains Golf Course, enjoys good natured camaraderie while raising funds to support student scholarships. A big thank you, also, to organizers Kathy Sawtells and Bob Gibbs for their work.

Look for news about the 2025 league on the EWURA website, spring newsletter and on Facebook.



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of *The Golden Eagle Call*
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SUPPORT BUILD OUR FUTURE - CONSIDER THESE OPTIONS FOR GIVING.

You can make a tax-wise gift
that supports our campaign:

- Appreciated Assets (such as stocks): Your capital gains can benefit our students and create an income tax deduction for you.
- IRA Charitable Distribution: If you are 70 ½ or older, you can make a gift through your IRA and avoid income tax on the distribution.
- Beneficiary: By naming EWU Foundation as a beneficiary of your retirement plan, your heirs avoid inheriting taxes on that income.

Please let us know your giving plans to support the Campaign for Eastern.



This fall, EWU launched a bold vision for our future. With a new strategic plan centered on enhancing student success, a revitalized brand as the region's polytechnic and

the public announcement of our first comprehensive fundraising campaign, Eastern is poised for a promising future.

We didn't get here by chance. Our region is calling for more college graduates equipped with critical thinking skills to fill workforce gaps in high-demand fields. To attract and retain students—and to draw philanthropic dollars to support them—EWU must boldly promote our value to prospective students and to the region. We must "Build Our Future."

The Campaign for Eastern aims to raise \$100 million for initiatives that enhance student success. We are 68% toward our goal! Many retirees have already come

forward to support the Build Our Future campaign. Thank you so much to those who have helped.

Here are some ways to help:

- Double your annual giving
- Donate appreciated stock
- Make a charitable distribution through your IRA (if over 70 ½)
- Include EWU Foundation in your estate plans—and let us know!
- Establish an endowed scholarship for future generations

Your involvement and support now will help build a promising future for Eastern and our students. Please contact our office to explore giving options that work for you. Our future depends on you!

With Gratitude,

Courtney Gray

EWURA Foundation Liaison
Senior Director of Gift Planning
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