

Dear Friends of Cal Poly Humboldt,

The Cal Poly Humboldt Foundation is pleased to present the 2025-26 Annual Report, which celebrates your generosity and the many ways it strengthens the University and enriches the student experience.

Over the past year, the impact of philanthropy has been extraordinary. Together, we raised \$18.3 million in gift commitments—an incredible investment in Humboldt and in our students. Your generosity helps expand the hands-on learning opportunities for which Humboldt is known and ensures students have access to the resources and experiences they need to thrive.

Just as importantly, your support helps prepare students for what comes next. Through opportunities to apply what they are learning and work alongside faculty and community partners, Humboldt students are building the skills they need to launch meaningful careers and contribute to their communities.

Thank you for believing in Cal Poly Humboldt and in the potential of our students. We are deeply grateful for your partnership and for the role you play in helping our students thrive.



**Jack McGurk '66**

Board Chair,  
Cal Poly Humboldt Foundation



**Steve Karp**

Acting Vice President,  
University Advancement  
Executive Director,  
Cal Poly Humboldt Foundation

Cal Poly Humboldt is Northern California's first polytechnic university and one of three polytechnic universities in the California State University system. Dedicated to hands-on learning, applied research, and social and environmental stewardship, the University's unique environment serves as a living laboratory for innovation in sustainability, climate resiliency, renewable energy, natural resources, and more. The University offers undergraduate and graduate degrees across three colleges: Natural Resources & Sciences, Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences, and Professional Studies.

# Cal Poly Humboldt.

## Cal Poly Humboldt Foundation

The Cal Poly Humboldt Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that exists to support and advance the purpose of Cal Poly Humboldt by securing private support, developing and managing entrepreneurial activities, overseeing philanthropic activities, and managing endowed and other assets as requested by the University.

### Foundation Board 2025-26

**Jack McGurk '66**, Chair

**Dan Phillips '91**, Vice Chair

**Jason Carlson**, Treasurer

**Steve Karp**, Executive Director  
and Secretary

**Richard Carvajal**, Cal Poly Humboldt  
President

**Mike Fisher '08, '09**, University CFO  
as Staff Representative

**Eden Donahue '09, '10**, Faculty  
Representative

**Jordan Kemme**, Student  
Representative

**Robin Smith '78**, Immediate  
Past Board Chair

**Philip Anton '98**

**John Ballard '80**

**Michelle Donahue**

**Scott Hunt**

**Carin Kaltschmidt '90**

**Sherman Schapiro '86**

How will your next gift  
make a difference?

***Be part of creating a brighter future.***

Contact the Cal Poly Humboldt Foundation today to  
discuss how you can support Humboldt students.

### Cal Poly Humboldt Foundation

1 Harpst St., Arcata, CA 95521

(707) 826-5200 • [giving@humboldt.edu](mailto:giving@humboldt.edu)

[giving.humboldt.edu](https://giving.humboldt.edu)

***Thank you for your  
continued support!***



# Cal Poly Humboldt FOUNDATION ANNUAL REPORT 2025-26

Your Gifts Help  
Humboldt Students  
Change the World



# \$18.3M

## Raised in 2025–26

The most philanthropic dollars raised in a single year in the University's history!

### \$56.7M

Size of Endowment as of 6/30/26

### 12,847

Total Gifts

### \$1,424

Average Gift Size

### 5,780

Individual Donors

12% growth over prior year

### 2,572

New Donors

### 2,023

Alumni Donors

### 625

Recurring Donors

### \$1.9M

Endowment Distribution

### >850

Donor-Funded Scholarships Awarded

## Giving Day Stats

April 8, 2026

77 Campus Groups Participated

\$349,167 Raised in 24 Hours

1,186 Individual Donors

633 New Donors Acquired

138 Programs and Scholarships Received Funding

\$123,775 In Matching Gifts

## Research & Innovation

With support from grant funding, faculty, students, and staff continue to advance bold ideas through research projects and programs that expand fields, build industry partnerships, and support student success.

301 total grant proposals requesting \$147M

185 Grants received totaling \$53.8M

## Empowering Students, Enriching Futures

### Transformative Gift

The Campbell Foundation's landmark \$3 million commitment for the Cannabis Studies program established the University's first fully funded endowed professorship. The largest single cash gift from a living donor in University history reflects Humboldt's expertise in cannabis research and education. "The ripple effects from this financial commitment are exciting to think about," says Samantha Campbell, president of The Campbell Foundation. "We are interested in supporting explorations into the many facets of this agricultural product, and its place in the history, economy, and ecology of our remarkable California landscape."



### Creating a Lasting Impact

Through a charitable remainder unitrust, a planned gift from alumni Mike ('95, Environmental Resources Engineering) and Carmen Minch ('95, Wildlife) will create lasting support for students in Environmental Resources Engineering and Wildlife, programs that shaped their lives and careers. The alumni couple is investing in future generations with a unique giving model they hope others will consider. Their gift is both a tribute to the university and an invitation to others to consider the legacy they want to leave.



### Opening the Door for Future Foresters

In honor of her late husband, Kathy Simpson established the Don Berry Forestry Scholarship Endowment and the Don Berry Forestry Scholarship. The funds support undergraduate students studying Forestry, Fire & Rangeland Management. Kathy hopes the fund will support students at all stages of their college journey, and encourage young women to feel like they belong in the traditionally male-dominated fields. "A scholarship is more than money; it's a reminder that someone is cheering for you," Kathy says.



### Legacy of Opportunity

Nearly \$1 million. That's the legacy Chris Lynch ('73, Political Science) and Bill Tanner are building for future students through the Christine Lynch and William C. Tanner Scholarship Endowment. The flexible fund helps support students where the need is greatest, providing financial stability that can help students stay enrolled, and build the confidence and skills they need to pursue their futures. "We hope it helps students actually be able to go to college," Lynch says. "Not everybody gets that chance."



### Shaping a Better Future

The Keith Berman and Nora Chen Scholarship supports Environmental Resources Engineering and Environmental Science & Management students. Beginning with a \$10,500 gift and growing each year, Keith and Nora's investment reflects their confidence in Humboldt to instill environmental responsibility in its graduates. "I believe Cal Poly Humboldt is one of the jewels of the California State University system. Why? Because of the extraordinary focus it places on our environment and the future of our planet," Keith says.



### Hooked on Giving Back

Celebrating 25 years of friendship, one group of Fisheries Biology alumni—the Humboldt Fishin' Lumberjacks—launched the 25-250 Challenge to grow the Roelofs Humboldt Fisheries Endowed Award to \$250,000. The endowment provides ongoing support for graduate students conducting fisheries research and conservation work, while honoring the professor who helped shape generations of Cal Poly Humboldt alumni.



Read more uplifting stories of generosity at [giving.humboldt.edu/giving-stories-month](https://giving.humboldt.edu/giving-stories-month)