A new year means new opportunities for us at Columbus State University. This year’s President’s Donor Report again shows that we continue to make exceptional fundraising strides at CSU. During the 2014-2015 fiscal year, we secured more than $33.5 million in private funding (page 7), which has brought us closer to our $100 million First Choice Comprehensive Campaign goal (page 13). It was one of the best fundraising years in our history.

Financial goals are not our only objective. This process has strengthened partnerships with companies like TSYS, a leading global payments provider. TSYS has contributed $4.5 million to develop a new program that will help prepare students for careers in cybersecurity (page 19). We also have made a commitment to increase student success in science, technology, engineering and mathematics — better known as STEM fields — by joining the state’s new initiative of Georgia Teaching Fellows (page 35) and benefiting many other local companies.

Construction of our new College of Education and Health Professions building is progressing downtown (page 14). This project is part of more than $60 million construction upgrades taking place on both our main and downtown campuses (page 37).

Last year’s success requires we acknowledge Alan Medders, our former vice president for University Advancement and executive director of the CSU Foundation, for his dedication to our campus family. Alan left at the end of January for a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity in the private sector.

We are beginning a national search for a new vice president who will join us in this truly unprecedented time on campus as we continue to become a first-choice university. As always, we thank alumni, friends, businesses, partners and foundations for the constant support.

Spence F. Sealy

Interim Vice President for University Advancement
Interim Executive Director, CSU Foundation Inc.
Giving by Individuals and Organizations  
Fiscal year ending July 31, 2015

- FRIENDS ..................................... $11,675,338
- ALUMNI ....................................... $7,610,990
- CORPORATIONS ......................... $8,070,672
- FOUNDATIONS ........................... $5,977,929
- ORGANIZATIONS ............................ $35,187
- FACULTY/STAFF .............................. $94,161

TOTAL GIVING .................... $33,464,277

TOTAL DONORS ...................... 1975

Gift Commitment by Purpose  
Fiscal year ending July 31, 2015

- CAPITAL PROJECTS ............................................................... $22,251,581
- GENERAL SUPPORT ................................................................. $8,449,908
- OUTREACH SUPPORT PROGRAM ........................................... $1,618,634
- SCHOLARSHIP ............................................................................ $922,227
- PROFESSORSHIP/CHAIR ............................................................. $140,450
- GIFTS-IN-KIND .............................................................................. $81,477

TOTAL ...........................................................................$33,464,277
The money raised during Fiscal Year 2015 (Aug. 1, 2014 to July 31, 2015) brings CSU closer to its $100 million First Choice Comprehensive Campaign goal. To date, about $66 million has been raised for the campaign, a comprehensive effort designed to raise money to create an academic and collegiate environment that will cement CSU’s status as a favored destination for top students and faculty.

Giving to the annual CSU Fund set a new record last year, bringing in $5.9 million of the total. Last year, the CSU Fund raised a then-record amount of $4.9 million. The CSU Fund provides critical support for scholarships and programming needs within each of the colleges and funding for other institutional priorities that span the entire campus, such as CSU’s Servant Leadership Program, Athletics, the Center for International Education, the Academic Center for Excellence and Student Life and Development, among others. The CSU Fund also provides university leadership with unrestricted funding to address new challenges and opportunities throughout the year.

“I continue to be amazed at the level of support that’s shown for Columbus State University,” said President Chris Markwood, who started in June. “When my wife and I were applying here, we were impressed by the partnerships that had been created, and the story that was being told about how the university is a catalyst for community development. To see that reflected in a $33 million fundraising year is just fantastic.”

SOME HIGHLIGHTS FOR FY 2015:

- $19.25 million toward a goal of $25 million was secured for the new College of Education and Health Professions building in downtown Columbus on CSU’s RiverPark campus at the site of the former Ledger Enquirer building.
- $5 million was secured from TSYS, $4.5 million of which will support startup cost, a professorship and scholarships for a new cybersecurity center in CSU’s Turner College of Business. The remaining $500,000 will be used for other CSU programs.
- Significant upgrades are in store for Cougar Athletics with the recent completion of the Key Golf Studio on University Avenue ($3.5 million) and the new Burger King Stadium at Ragsdale Field, which is now open ($1.15 million).

“The is very reassuring to see this kind of response from donors when we outline our needs and talk about the impact that Columbus State University already has on this state,” said Phil Tomlinson, retired CEO of TSYS and volunteer chair for CSU’s First Choice Comprehensive Campaign. “People are hearing our story and investing in our future in record numbers.”

Tomlinson also noted how validating it was to see that faculty and staff giving was up again. In 2011, about 57 percent of CSU employees gave private gifts to the university. That figure was up to 69 percent this year. Another positive fundraising year is expected in FY 2016. Several important requests are being considered that will move the university closer to the ultimate campaign goal, said Markwood.

With more than $33.5 million raised through private funding, Columbus State University finished one of the most successful fiscal years of fundraising in the institution’s history.
Columbus State relies on the generosity of private donors and recognizes supporters through various recognition societies:

LIFETIME GIVING

The President’s Society
The President’s Society is comprised of a special group of benefactors whose cumulative lifetime gifts to Columbus State University exceed fifty thousand dollars ($50,000).

TOWER SOCIETY GIVING LEVELS

- Cornerstone Partners ....................................... $50,000.00+
- Gold ........................................................... $25,000.00+
- Silver ........................................................... $10,000.00+
- Bronze ........................................................... $5,000.00+
- Copper Circle .................................................. $1,000.00+

ENDOWED FUNDS

The Shannon Society
The Shannon Society recognizes individuals, foundations, and other entities who have established endowed funds for scholarships, faculty chairs, academic units, and programs or initiatives that enhance and support excellence at Columbus State University. In 1958 Columbus College opened its doors to 265 students in a building that originally housed the Shannon Hosiery Mill. The Shannon Society honors the leaders whose vision and generosity established the university and ushered in a new era for education.

PLANNED GIFTS

The Legacy Society
The Legacy Society is comprised of a select group of alumni and friends who have notified the University of specific provisions in their estate, retirement, or life insurance plans or have named the University as a beneficiary of a charitable trust or life income gift such as an annuity.
$100 MILLION GOAL FOR CSU’S “FIRST CHOICE” COMPREHENSIVE CAMPAIGN

Columbus State University set a $100 million goal for its “First Choice” Comprehensive Campaign.

The comprehensive effort is designed to raise at least $100 million to create an academic and collegiate environment to cement CSU’s status as a favored destination for top students and faculty.

Goals for the campaign have evolved during the past 18 months after extensive collaboration and discussion with academic deans and their departments.

While there are some building projects in the plan — most notably a new home downtown for CSU’s College of Education and Health Professions — the underlying goals of the campaign are to create a solid infrastructure within the university to attract leading faculty, fund scholarships for students, and develop academic programs and enhance existing programs to solve real-world problems, while also helping Columbus State University distinguish itself on a national scale.

More than $61 million has already been raised toward these objectives. Phil Tomlinson, chairman of the board of TSYS, has agreed to be the volunteer leader for Columbus State’s campaign.

“I saw firsthand how Columbus State University helped my company, how our partnership with the university literally kept TSYS in Columbus,” Tomlinson said. “I can testify as to how Columbus State’s campaign helped my company, how our partnership with the university literally kept TSYS in Columbus.”

The comprehensive effort is designed to cement CSU’s status as a favored destination for top students and faculty.

“We are already almost two-thirds of the way toward our goal,” Sealy said. “Based on the history of private giving to Columbus State University, we have no doubt that we’ll be successful. We have built a compelling story that we think will resonate with our alumni, community and supporters.”

He noted that CSU’s last campaign, called an “Investment in People,” had an original goal of $67 million that turned into a goal of $85 million. When the fireworks exploded in November 2005 marking the end of that campaign, total gifts and pledges totaled just more than $100 million.

Jimmy Yancey, retired chairman of the board of Synovus Financial Corp., led the Investment in People Campaign. He said he is assisting Tomlinson with the First Choice Campaign because he knows how much the previous campaign accomplished for CSU and believes this campaign will build on that momentum.

“‘I believe CSU can continue to grow into an institution of regional and national prominence — to truly be a ‘first choice’ for top students and faculty members, I saw the tremendous support we have in the last campaign. That sentiment still exists. And with all the projects now planned or under way, and a new president coming in later this year, there are many reasons to be excited about Columbus State University’s future.’”

—Jimmy Yancey

One major campaign project already under way is moving Columbus State’s College of Education and Health Professions to downtown Columbus, a move that will further expand the university’s popular RiverPark campus with an extra 1,800 students, faculty and staff.

Entirely with private support, the university’s real estate foundation, Foundation Properties, Inc., purchased the home of the Ledger-Enquirer newspaper just before Christmas and is working with Barnes, Gibson & Patel Architects to preserve and renovate the historic part of the building, with demolition and new construction planned at the corner of Broadway and West 12th Street. The project is estimated to cost up to $25 million. More than $18 million has been secured so far.

“Obviously, finishing the fund-raising for the new education building is an immediate priority,” Tomlinson said. “Also important is educating our alumni and friends that these projects — and the other renovations or construction planned — are not just about new buildings; they are about providing our university with learning spaces that will allow faculty in all programs to engage students, embrace students and educate students in the best possible ways.”
New College of Education and Health Professions building develops downtown

Beams continue to frame Columbus State University’s new College of Education and Health Professions building downtown. The $25 million project on the CSU’s RiverPark campus is slated for completion by spring 2017.

The college will now sit on the corner of Broadway and West 12th St. — the same site and building that once housed Columbus’ legal organ, the Ledger-Enquirer. While preserving the original portion listed on the Historic Register, much of the remaining complex became demolished during summer 2015 to make way for new construction.

“Through private donations, the university’s real estate foundation, Foundation Properties Inc., purchased the home of the newspaper. Barnes, Gibson & Patel Architects and Brasfield & Gorrie contractors have been supervising the demolition, construction and renovation process.

“We are very excited with how this project is progressing,” said Tom Hackett, provost and vice president for academic affairs. “Our plans for the former Ledger-Enquirer building will mirror other projects we have done in Uptown. We’re taking great care to preserve the historic nature of the complex, while also adapting the building to our needs in a way that will complement the special look and feel of that area.”
The Georgia Lung Association Health Science Schlr. Endw.
Goizueta Foundation
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Gail B. Greenblatt
Dr. Daniel Gullo
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The Richard R. Hallock Foundation
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The Jordan Foundation
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Alan C. and Elizabeth Butler Ramsay
Kim Eason Rozycki

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Robin Batastini
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TSYS GIVES $5 MILLION TO COLUMBUS STATE UNIVERSITY

Columbus, Ga.-based TSYS, a leading global payments provider, and Columbus State University have entered into a unique partnership to develop a new, innovative program within the CSU computer science department specifically designed to prepare students for careers in cybersecurity both in Georgia and throughout the nation. Lack of qualified cyber security practitioners has been highlighted as a major challenge facing both industry and government.

Through this partnership, TSYS has contributed $2.5 million to establish the TSYS Cybersecurity Center for Financial Services to be housed in the Turner College of Business’ TSYS School of Computer Science. The TSYS Cybersecurity Center for Financial Services Endowment will supplement salaries to attract nationally recognized faculty, fund new research assistantships and student scholarships, support faculty and student travel, and finance special projects and initiatives.

An additional $2 million will be used to establish the TSYS Endowment for Excellence in the Turner College to support excellence in the academic programs offered by the TSYS School of Computer Science with specific emphasis on mainframe computing, information technology and information systems. The remaining $500,000 of the TSYS gift, a total of $5 million, will be used for other CSU programs.

In January, CSU was selected for a consortium of seven University System of Georgia (USG) institutions to develop the USG’s capabilities in IT and cyber security as well as significantly increase the number of IT and cyber security industry qualified graduates coming from USG institutions.

USG Chancellor Hank Huckaby stated in his memo for creating the consortium, “The U.S. Army Cyber Command, the U.S. National Security Agency, the financial transaction processing industry, and the health informatics and healthcare information technology industries play a huge and exponentially growing role in Georgia’s knowledge economy. The number of graduates in the information technology and cyber security programs of our combined institutions is not currently capable of meeting the existing and projected workforce demands of these industries in Georgia.”

“We are deeply appreciative that TSYS has joined CSU in this partnership and believe that together we can help provide real world solutions to this pressing problem and be a true innovator in the field,” said Tom Hackert, provost and vice president for academic affairs at CSU. “These agreements and these gifts are a testament to the strength of TSYS’ commitment to CSU and its students,” said CSU President Chris Markwood. “It was such strength of community that first attracted me and my family to Columbus State University.”

“The gift is a significant contribution to support the academic and scholarship initiatives of the $100 million CSU First Choice Campaign and takes gifts and commitments to date to more than $65 million,” said Spence Sealy, interim vice president for University Advancement. “This is the largest gift ever donated to CSU’s Turner College of Business.”

CSU First Choice Campaign donations will enable Columbus State University to continue to attract and retain first choice students and faculty, construct world-class facilities and endow the university with the means to enhance academic and athletic programs.
The Tower Society recognizes those supporters who faithfully make annual gifts at the minimum leadership level of $1,000.00.

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Gov. Nathan Deal announced the inaugural class of Georgia Teaching Fellows to help build a stronger pipeline of STEM education, and I’m grateful to the Woodrow Wilson Foundation for its investment in our state’s students.”

“Our schools are our most strategic investment in the future,” said Deal. “I’m confident these educators share my belief that every child can learn and should have access to an education that prepares them for college, the workforce and beyond. The inaugural class of Georgia Teaching Fellows will gain the training necessary to serve as a lifeline for students to a high-quality education, and I’m grateful to the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation for its investment in our state’s students.”

The Fellowship focuses on preparing top-quality educators for many of Georgia’s most underserved public schools. Each Fellow receives $30,000 to complete a specially designed, cutting-edge master’s degree program based on a year-long classroom experience. In return, Fellows commit to teach for three years in the urban and rural Georgia schools that most need strong STEM teachers.

Throughout the three-year commitment, Fellows receive ongoing support and mentoring. The following 12 students are Columbus State University’s 2015 Woodrow Wilson Teaching Fellows:

2. Kelly Colburn - math, Smiths Station, Ala.
5. Ashley Hunter - chemistry, Columbus, Ga.
7. Brian Moler - math, Cheyenne, Wyoming

“We are very impressed with the high quality of the individuals in the first cohort of CSU Woodrow Wilson Teaching Fellows,” said Deborah Gober, professor of mathematics education and CSU’s Woodrow Wilson Teaching Fellowship program director. “Faculty have commented that the Fellows are some of the best students they have taught. They have demonstrated a great passion for and commitment to learning and teaching as they began their coursework and clinical experiences this summer.”

The Woodrow Wilson Foundation is administering the program, with in-state coordination by the Georgia Partnership for Excellence in Education and support from the Robert W. Woodruff Foundation. Current project funding is $9.36 million. “The future success of our communities, our schools, and our children depends on a strong teacher workforce prepared for the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century classroom,” Woodrow Wilson Foundation President Arthur Levine said. “Through a wide range of efforts, Georgia has demonstrated its commitment to school improvement and closing achievement gaps. The Woodrow Wilson Foundation welcomes this year’s class of Fellows and is excited about working with Georgia universities and school districts to help improve teacher preparation and to ensure that every Georgia child has excellent teacher quality year after year.”

The university partners, selected in a statewide review by the Woodrow Wilson Foundation, have spent the past year and a half tailoring their teacher preparation programs to meet the Fellowship’s standards for intensive clinical work and rigorous related coursework. Georgia State University and Mercer University will join Columbus State, Kennesaw State, and Piedmont in offering Woodrow Wilson Teaching Fellowships for the 2016-17 academic year.

All five participating universities receive $400,000 matching grants to develop their teacher preparation programs based on standards set by the Woodrow Wilson Foundation. For each of the program’s three years, the participating Georgia colleges and universities will be eligible to enroll 12 fellows, totaling 180 fellows over that three-year period.

The Woodrow Wilson Foundation is also partnering with a wide range of school districts across the state on this effort. Through the Teaching Fellowship program, the Woodrow Wilson Foundation will contribute to the University System of Georgia’s initiative to produce 20,000 new teachers by 2020.

“The Georgia Partnership has long supported strategies to improve teacher effectiveness,” said Georgia Partnership President Steve Dillingham. “The Woodrow Wilson Teaching Fellowship will not only help improve the teacher training programs at five universities in partnership with several of their local school systems but will also produce more STEM teachers for our state. Both goals are timely for Georgia. We are proud to help coordinate these efforts over the next several years.”

Georgia joins Indiana, Michigan, New Jersey, and Ohio as Woodrow Wilson Teaching Fellowship states. The Georgia program brings the Woodrow Wilson Foundation’s total commitment to the Fellowship to nearly $90 million. More information on the national program can be found at: http://woodrow.org/fellowships/ww-teaching-fellowships/
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**Athletic gifts are also reflected in the CSU Foundation Honor Roll.

UNIVERSITY EXPERIENCES
UPGRADES IN ATHLETICS

Columbus State University has experienced unprecedented history with more than $60 million in projects completed or underway. Here is what has been happening on campus in athletics:

Burger King Stadium at Ragsdale Field ($1.15 million)
CSU completed upgrades to its baseball complex, which opened spring 2016. The upgrades included a classic, brick-face look surrounding the stadium; a roof over the entire seating area to provide shaded seating; 750 chair-back seats; a ticket booth; and a new pressbox. The baseball complex is named Burger King Stadium at Ragsdale Field in honor of significant investments from Columbus’ Schuster Enterprises, which operates more than 60 Burger King restaurants in the Southeast.

Key Golf Studio ($2 million)
CSU’s new Key Golf Studio on University Avenue has opened, giving the Cougar men’s and women’s golf teams an opportunity to practice year-round and continue to compete nationally with the best. Private funding developed the property, and the building adjacent to the studio serves as the headquarters and training center for the university’s men’s and women’s golf programs.
The mission of the Columbus State University Foundation is to enhance the academic vision and priorities of Columbus State University through its organized fundraising activities and funds management. Established in 1963, the Foundation, a nonprofit corporation, provides a vehicle for securing funds for scholarships, special needs and enrichment programs. The Foundation has authority to solicit and accept contributions on behalf of the university from individuals, businesses and other organizations.

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Please note that the contributions listed in this report are those made during the fiscal year Aug. 1, 2014, to July 31, 2015. Every effort has been made to ensure the information found in this report is true and accurate. Please contact Sandy Lewack in University Advancement at 706-507-8940 of any errors or omissions, and accept our sincere apology.
Donors play a critical role shaping the future of Columbus State University. Please visit ColumbusState.edu/giving to make a gift to learn more about how private giving is shaping the CSU’s quest to become a first-choice university.