



2025 UCONN FOUNDATION

ANNUAL REPORT

UCONN | FOUNDATION

**BECAUSE
OF UCONN**

The Campaign
for UConn Nation



As 2025 comes to a close, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks for your unwavering support and reflect on a truly remarkable year for UConn and the UConn Foundation.

This year marked the public launch of our historic Because of UConn Campaign—a bold, \$1.5B effort to shape the future of our university. Thanks to your generosity, we’ve already raised more than \$800M, accelerating progress across all four pillars of the Campaign: Students First, Academic & Innovation Excellence, Health & Wellness of People & Planet, and Husky Pride.

In this report, you’ll see the extraordinary impact of UConn Nation. This past year, 24,198 donors contributed \$144M in gifts and commitments. Your support is opening doors for over 8,600 first-generation students and helping ensure that financial need never stands in the way of a UConn education. Gifts like yours also supported emergency funding for students at risk of withdrawing from the University. Often, it is a small margin of funding that makes a difference in a student completing their degree. Because of you, more students are crossing that finish line.

Your generosity also fuels groundbreaking research and academic excellence across our campuses. At UConn Health, 1.4M patients receive exceptional care each year. And your Husky Pride continues to shine — this year, the UConn Women’s Basketball team brought home their 12th title and UConn’s 26th national championship across all sports. We saw a record-breaking 63,200 applications for Fall 2025 admission.

Our endowment grew to \$668M, powered by new gifts and a strong investment return, placing us among the top four-year universities and colleges in the country.

As we look ahead, we are energized by the momentum you’ve helped create. Together, we are building a future where UConn leads with purpose, impact, and pride. The world moves forward because of UConn, and all we do is possible because of YOU.

With heartfelt gratitude,

Amy Yancey

President & CEO, UConn Foundation

FISCAL YEAR HIGHLIGHTS 2025

More than halfway to our goal — and the momentum keeps building



Students First | \$34,326,181

In FY25, the Foundation awarded millions in scholarships — helping more than 4,200 students shape their futures at UConn.



Academic & Innovation Excellence | \$45,474,587

Donor support is helping UConn recruit and retain world-class educators and researchers, including 235 faculty who rank among the world's top 2% of scientists.



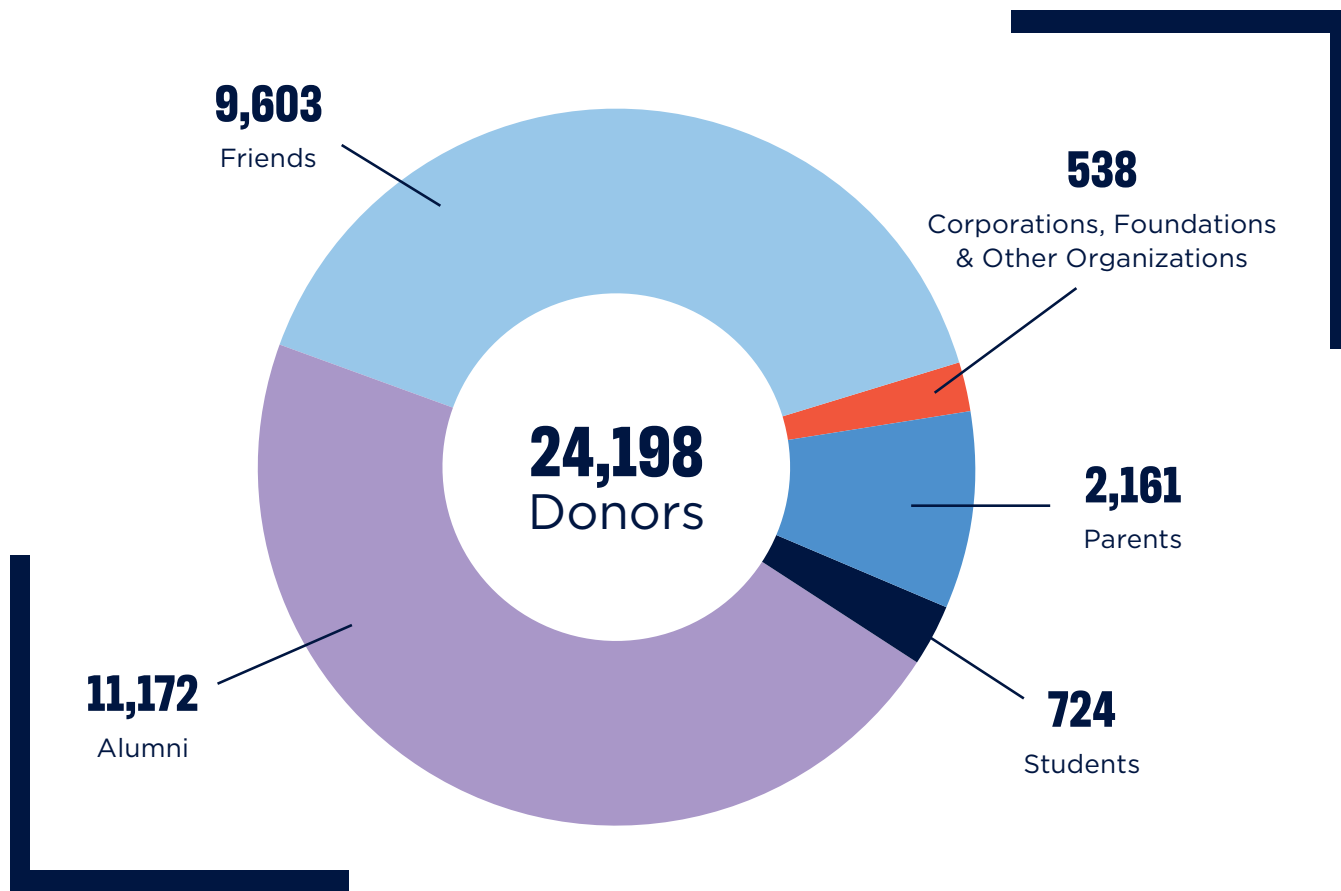
Health & Wellness of People & Planet | \$12,481,459

Transformative gifts are helping to train future leaders in specialized medicine, fueling research that will advance equity and improve medical outcomes for communities across Connecticut.



Husky Pride | \$51,999,811

Powered by passionate alumni, friends, and fans, UConn Nation is growing stronger every day, evidenced by a record-breaking 63,200 first-year applications and 26 National Championships.



CAMPAIGN & EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

The UConn Foundation publicly launched the Because of UConn campaign at a kickoff event on April 23, 2025 on the Avery Point campus, with UConn President Radenka Maric unveiling the most ambitious fundraising effort in the University’s 144-year history.



The public launch of the Because of UConn campaign has accelerated fundraising for the University.



“

The Because of UConn campaign is a celebration of all of us. Whether you graduated five decades ago or are graduating five minutes from now, each one of our stories is a vital part of the UConn story. Tonight honors our impact, our journey, our legacy, and the generosity that keeps it thriving.

**UConn AND NBA LEGEND EMEKA OKAFOR '04 (BUS)
CAMPAIGN LAUNCH EVENT EMCEE**



“

Because of UConn is a powerful story. Each of you has a unique story — what UConn means for you, what it did for you, and what you are doing today for UConn.

PRESIDENT RADENKA MARIC



“

We're sitting here tonight because the people that you're sitting next to helped you become what you always thought you could become.

**12-TIME NCAA CHAMPION AND HALL OF FAME
UConn WOMEN'S BASKETBALL HEAD COACH, GENO AURIEMMA**



STUDENTS FIRST



The Because of UConn campaign launched with a core priority: putting students first. Donor generosity is easing financial burdens through scholarships and supporting student health, career readiness, and life skills. These investments help students thrive today, prepare them for lifelong success, and reduce barriers to graduation.

Scholarship support moves the University closer to our goal of raising our six-year graduation rate. While UConn’s 84% graduation rate already exceeds the national average, reaching our goal of 90% means students graduate in fewer semesters and with less debt. It also elevates UConn’s national standing as a leader in higher education — showing that when we put students first, we strengthen the entire University.

Impact Stats

36%

First-generation students in UConn’s incoming Class of 2029

\$9,500

Average student unmet need per year

44%

Of students at risk of dropping out cite financial reasons for leaving

4,200+

Students receive donor-supported scholarships

\$55M+

Raised for scholarships in FY 25

Creating Pathways for Aspiring Nurses

Elisabeth DeLuca '69 (NUR) made the largest gift in UConn’s history to the Elisabeth DeLuca School of Nursing, which was recently renamed in her honor. Her generosity will fund a new state-of-the-art facility in Storrs, which broke ground in the fall of 2024. DeLuca Hall will maximize space for student learning throughout its five floors and provide cutting-edge resources that foster innovation, such as a simulation lab suite. Additionally, DeLuca’s commitment provides scholarships to increase programmatic support and reduce financial barriers for students. This investment will empower more students to follow their calling in healthcare, and help us successfully double the number of graduating nurses ready to deliver patient-centered care, playing a vital role in addressing the state and nation’s nursing shortage.



The University recently broke ground on the new Elisabeth DeLuca School of Nursing building in fiscal year 2025. It is scheduled for completion in late 2026.

Empowering Future Leaders Through Scholarship Support

“Without scholarship support, I wouldn’t be on the UConn campus,” said Nicole Montalvo ’28. She remembers the stress and uncertainty of trying to figure out if she could afford college. The moment she saw she had received the Elisabeth C. DeLuca Nursing Scholarship in her student portal, she and her family cried tears of joy.

Because of that award, she has thrived at UConn. During her nursing studies at UConn, she learned that many physical therapy patients struggle to do their exercises at home due to language barriers and other access issues. Montalvo and her peers decided to create Flexapy, a mobile application that helps physical therapy patients do their at-home exercises through gamification. “I mean, who wouldn’t love playing a game?”

In addition to leading a startup, Montalvo has also mentored nearly 100 young women through Women in STEM (WiMSE).

“UConn has molded me into the leader I am today, someone who helps create a yellow brick road for the next generation of students like me.”



Scholarships fuel Nicole Montalvo's entrepreneurship.

Generosity That Lifts Burdens

UConn School of Pharmacy Dean Phil Hritcko and UConn Foundation Board of Directors member Lorraine Hritcko know firsthand how higher education can change lives: Both were first-generation college students. They are paying it forward with transformative investments in the School of Pharmacy and its students. Recent scholarship recipients of the Philip and Lorraine Hritcko Pharmacy Endowment include Ashley Roding ’23 (PHARM), ’25 Pharm.D. She said, “It’s such a stress relief knowing there is someone there supporting you in your pursuit of education, especially while you’re trying to juggle your workload and extracurricular activities.”



Phil and Lorraine Hritcko are passionate about supporting first-generation students.



Donor generosity is driving discovery by equipping faculty and graduate students with the resources, facilities, and programs that spark breakthroughs and expanding innovative learning opportunities for the community.

Breaking Bias, Building Community

Judy Sarna and her late husband, Morris Sarna, were starting to see troubling signs of hatred, bias, and antisemitism emerging from the margins. “One day, my husband said, the world is getting like 1938 Germany,” Sarna said. They were familiar with this slippery slope — Morris had survived the Holocaust.



Judy and Morris Sarna's gift brings immersive Holocaust and bias awareness program to high school students.

They took action, making a transformative gift that could be used right away to expand the Morris and Judy Sarna Breaking Bias & Creating Community Program to high school students across Connecticut. By using interactive Holocaust survivor testimony, a virtual reality tour of a concentration camp, and a photo exhibit that focuses on identity, the program uses innovative technology to foster understanding and combat prejudice. Expected to reach tens of thousands of students, the program also gives UConn students hands-on teaching experience.

“This is a place where even a small amount of money can go a long way,” Judy says. “You’re educating teachers and students and that goes on and on generationally well beyond the program.”

Endowed Faculty Leader Opens Doors in STEM

Stephany Santos '12 (ENGR), '16 MS, '20 Ph.D., serves as the Vergnano Endowed Chair at UConn's College of Engineering. She is dedicated to mentoring students — a role she feels she's been preparing for since arriving on campus in 2008 as an undergraduate in BRIDGE, a program that helps first-year students transition to college. She has since gone from active student leader and academic standout to full-time faculty member and executive director of the Vergnano Institute.

“Many students expressed excitement to have a professor ‘like me,’ which can mean a lot of things — Afro-Latina, child of immigrants,” Santos said. “I’m breaking stigmas and stereotypes that exist in [STEM] domains and showing students they can, too.” Recently, while preparing for the largest regional science bowl in the country, she connected with a student about what it means to be the first woman in her family to attend college.

Her position is made possible by Mark Vergnano '80 (ENGR) and Betsy '81 (CLAS) Vergnano, whose generosity established the Institute and endowed the chair to help aspiring engineers overcome barriers and pursue STEM careers.



Stephany Santos is one of the 125 endowed faculty members whose impactful work is sustained by donors.

A Gift That Adapts to the Moment

It is fitting that the Reading Room in William F. Starr Hall — a space considered the heart of the UConn Law campus in Hartford — is now named for Stuart F. Smith '80 JD in honor of his extraordinary generosity. Smith made a discretionary gift in fiscal year 2025 that enables dean Eboni S. Nelson to allocate resources where they are most needed, addressing priorities as they arise.



Stuart F. Smith '80 JD and UConn School of Law Dean Eboni S. Nelson



The Because of UConn campaign recognizes that investing in healthier people and a healthier planet ensures a stronger future for all. Donor support for UConn and UConn Health is improving patient care, advancing medical research, and developing life-changing technologies that improve healthcare outcomes while bringing UConn closer to our net-zero goals.

Meeting the Needs of an Aging Population

By 2060, the number of older adults in the U.S. is expected to double — a dramatic shift that demands more social workers to support seniors through every step of aging. Judy Zachs '77 MSW has direct experience with this challenge. A retired clinical social worker who dedicated her career to gerontology, Zachs has long championed UConn's School of Social Work. Her generosity helped launch its Ph.D. program and expand opportunities for students committed to serving older adults.



Travelers Chair in Geriatrics and Gerontology George Kuchel MD, Judy Zachs '77 MSW, UConn President Radenka Maric, and UConn Foundation President & CEO Amy Yancey at a June 2025 Center on Aging Event

In 2025, Zachs deepened her impact by establishing the Judith M. Zachs Family Professorship in Aging, ensuring sustained support for a leading scholar whose research and teaching will advance the field — from combatting isolation to building care networks to advocating for policies that break down housing and healthcare barriers for older adults. Because of donors like Zachs, UConn is ensuring that seniors receive the compassionate, expert care they deserve as Connecticut's population grows older.

Mental Health Matters: Alex's Legacy

Even with a lifetime of health challenges — including Hodgkin's lymphoma, hearing loss, endometriosis, and bipolar disorder — Alexandra "Alex" Karen Alerte lived life with joy, spirit, and selflessness. Although she showed great resilience, Alex's mental health struggles proved too challenging and ultimately claimed her life in 2022.

To honor Alex's life and prevent similar tragedies, her mother, Dr. Marie-Claude David, and her brother, Dr. Anton Alerte '98 MD, established the Alexandra Karen Alerte Memorial Fund at UConn School of Medicine. This fund supports graduate students pursuing psychiatry and psychiatric research.



Alex Alerte's legacy provides hope to those who also face bipolar disorder.

"Bipolar disorder is incredibly difficult to treat and needs individualized approaches," said Dr. Alerte, a UConn pediatrics professor. "This is what Alex would want: research that alleviates suffering for future patients."

The family hopes to lift the stigma surrounding mental illness so that mental health is treated with the same urgency as physical health.

"The time isn't now to do this work," said Dr. David. "The time was yesterday."

UConn Arboretum: A Living Laboratory

In fiscal year 2025, UConn's Storrs campus earned certification as a Level II Arboretum, underscoring the University's commitment to promoting environmental and human health. Generous gifts to the UConn Arboretum Endowment Fund safeguard the beauty and biodiversity of this special home to more than 5,000 trees and 400+ species.



UConn's arboretum accreditation underscores the inextricable link between the wellness of the campus and that of those who learn, work, and visit here.



Husky Pride unites all of UConn Nation. In 2025, the Because of UConn campaign grew that enthusiasm across our global community — with Husky support propelling UConn Athletics to championships, regional campuses growing, and alumni and friends engaging like never before. This momentum is building the UConn brand and drawing more people to the University; this year, applications soared to historic levels.

Transforming Student-Athlete Success Through Academic Excellence

This year, we broke ground on the construction of the Bailey Student-Athlete Success Center, named for Trisha Bailey, '99 (CLAS), whose anchor gift is among the largest from any UConn graduate. Additionally, a remarkable \$15M commitment from Denis Nayden '76 (BUS), '77 MBA and Britta Nayden '76 (CAHNR) will establish the Nayden Center for Academic Excellence, a 12,000 square foot academic center that will provide tutoring, testing, and holistic academic support for nearly 600 student-athletes. This space, housed within the Bailey Student-Athlete Success Center, will provide the resources student-athletes need to dedicate themselves to their sport and their studies — enabling them to continue uplifting the Husky community worldwide.



The new center is scheduled to open in spring 2027.

The Naydens met at a dance at Hilltop during their student years. “UConn provided us with the foundation for our success, and we believe deeply in the power of education to transform lives,” says Denis Nayden. “Britta and I are committed to ensuring that future generations of UConn student-athletes have access to exceptional academic resources and support systems that empower them to reach their highest potential both on and off the field.”



From left, UConn student-athlete Chioma Okafor '26 (BUS, ENG), UConn President Radenka Maric, Trisha Bailey '99 (CLAS), and Denis Nayden '76 (BUS), '77 MBA stand onstage during the groundbreaking ceremony for the Bailey Student-Athlete Success Center and Nayden Academic Excellence Center in April 2025.

1/3

Fundraising
driven by Athletics
in FY25

26

National championships
won by UConn teams

9,000+

Volunteers engaged
in campaign

Nearly
50%

of regional programs
are volunteer led

Over 500

alumni programs
offered in FY25
engaged 22,000
registrants

Nearly
300,000

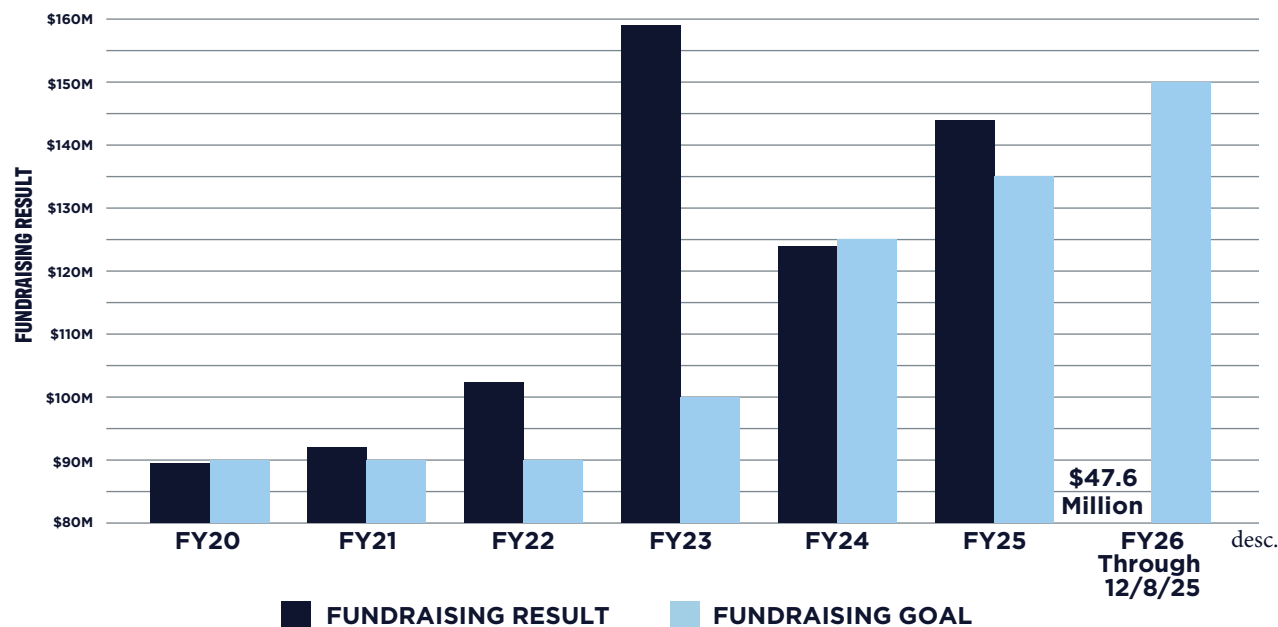
alumni worldwide,
with 158,000+
in Connecticut

DRIVING IMPACT: OUR FUNDRAISING PROGRESS

Advancing UConn’s Mission Through Generous Support

Since launching the Because of UConn campaign in 2020, we’ve raised an incredible \$805.5 million — already over halfway to our \$1.5 billion goal. Together, we’re fueling academic excellence, driving innovation, and expanding student support. We’re setting bold goals, because the future needs bold ideas.

FY20-26 GOALS V ACTUALS:



CAMPAIGN PROGRESS:

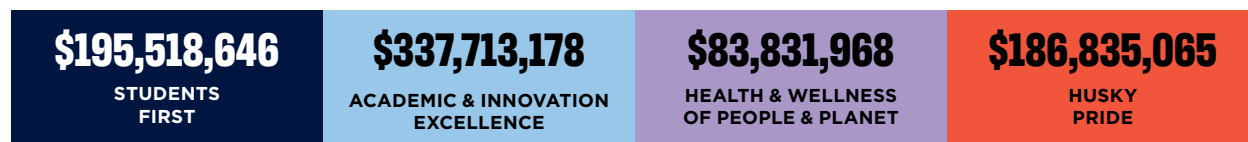
	GOAL PROGRESS (FROM 7/1/2019 CAMPAIGN START DATE)	% TO GOAL	GAP TO GOAL
Total Campaign Commitment	\$804,999,856	53.66%	\$695,000,144 2025-2030

Thanks to donor generosity, a favorable market environment, and disciplined investment strategy, UConn’s total endowment pool continues to grow, reaching a total of \$668 million in FY25.

UCONN FOUNDATION’S ENDOWMENT:



The campaign’s four key pillars are each represented in the breakdown of fundraising dollars shown below:



FINANCIAL STATEMENT OVERVIEW PREPARED BY

David L. Carney, CFA

Senior Vice President of Finance & Administration and Chief Financial Officer

Executive Summary

- **Record Fundraising:** Total commitments reached \$144 million, marking the fourth consecutive year of fundraising above \$100 million.
- **Significant Increase in University Support:** Support for UConn rose 29% to \$65 million, with student support increasing by 61% to \$28 million.
- **Stable Revenues, Strong Investments:** Total revenues held steady at \$155 million; net investment returns grew by \$4 million, driven by strong equity markets.
- **Disciplined Expense Management:** Operating expenses remained flat at \$32 million, even as the Foundation launched the ambitious \$1.5 billion Because of UConn capital campaign.
- **Growth in Net Assets:** Net assets increased by \$58 million (7%) to a record \$881 million, reflecting the Foundation's financial health and long-term sustainability.

Overview

Fiscal year 2025 marked another year of strong performance for the Foundation, underscoring its commitment to advancing UConn's mission. Total commitments reached \$144 million (including planned gifts and sponsored research grants), securing the Foundation's fourth consecutive year of fundraising exceeding \$100 million. Support for the University grew significantly, climbing 29% above last year's record level to \$65 million, with an especially notable 61% increase in student support, totaling \$28 million.

Total revenues for the year were \$155 million, remaining essentially flat compared to the prior year, as reflected in the **Audited Statement of Activities**. Investment performance remained a bright spot, with net returns surpassing last year's already strong results by \$4 million year-over-year. More than half of the year's return was realized in the fourth quarter, spurred by the AI and semiconductor boom along with easing inflation and rate expectations in several major economies. Contribution revenue declined slightly by \$5 million, driven by a higher proportion of planned gifts that will generate future rather than current-year revenue.

Operating expenses held steady at \$32 million, reflecting disciplined cost management even as the Foundation undertook major new initiatives. Chief among these was the public launch of the Because of UConn capital campaign, an ambitious effort to raise \$1.5 billion by 2031, positioning the Foundation for transformative impact in the years ahead.

Overall, the Foundation achieved a \$58 million increase in net assets as reflected in the Foundation's **Audited Statement of Financial Position**, driven largely by strong returns in both endowed and operating investment pools. Year-end net assets closed at \$881 million, up 7%, setting a new record high and reinforcing the Foundation's healthy financial position.

This performance reflects not only sustained donor confidence but also strategic investment management and a clear focus on priorities such as student support and long-term growth. With the capital campaign underway, the Foundation is well-positioned to build on this momentum and deliver lasting benefits to the University community.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

As of June 30, 2024 and 2025

Assets	2024	2025
	(Dollars in Thousands)	
Cash and cash equivalents	48,378	20,992
Pledges receivable, net	81,595	64,739
Investments, operating	123,266	153,740
Investments, endowment	572,887	645,878
Funds held in trust by others	11,539	13,072
Endowments held for the University	21,253	21,253
Cash surrender value of life insurance	572	831
Property and equipment, net	2,525	3,391
Other assets	674	27,577
Total Assets	\$862,689	\$951,473
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	16,081	47,026
Trusts and annuities payable	2,295	2,328
Endowments held for the University	21,253	21,253
Lease liability	207	133
Total Liabilities	\$39,836	\$70,740
Net Assets		
Without donor restrictions	15,671	22,353
With donor restrictions	807,182	858,380
Total Net Assets	\$822,853	\$880,733
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$862,689	\$951,473

The Statement of Financial Position was derived from the audited financial statements as of June 30, 2024 and 2025.

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

For the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2024 and 2025

Revenues, Gains, and Other Support	2024	2025
	(Dollars in Thousands)	
Contributions	63,808	58,619
Net total investment return	74,115	78,289
Contractual payments from the University	13,500	16,000
Memberships and other income	1,154	1,687
Total Revenues, Gains, and Other Support	\$152,577	\$154,595
Expenses		
University program support	50,334	64,969
Foundation operations		
Fundraising expenses	22,901	23,139
Management and general expenses	8,441	8,607
Total Foundation operations	31,342	31,746
Total expenses	81,676	96,715
Total increase in net assets	70,901	57,880
Net assets, beginning of year	751,952	822,853
Net Assets, End of Year	\$822,853	\$880,733

The Statement of Activities was derived from the audited financial statements for the years ended June 30, 2024 and 2025.

TO OUR DONORS, ALUMNI, CURRENT, AND FORMER BOARD MEMBERS,

Because of you, UConn is not just keeping pace with the world — we're leading it. Your vision, generosity, and leadership have propelled this campaign forward with boldness and purpose, setting the stage for a future defined by innovation, opportunity, and impact.

On behalf of the Foundation, we thank you for your passion and dedication. This year marked the official launch of our Because of UConn Campaign — a milestone that reflects the strength of our community and the power of your commitment.

We honor the leadership of Foundation Board of Directors members completing their service and warmly welcome those beginning their terms.

Concluding Their Service

Trisha Bailey Ph.D. '99 (CLAS) '23 H (PHARM)
Lori Riiska '84 (BUS)
Angelo DeFazio '85 (PHARM)
Anthony Rizza '87 (BUS)
Amy J. Errett '79 (CLAS)
Dr. Michael K. Rosen '89 MD
Michael Koppel '78 (BUS)
Curtis Tearte '78 JD*
Joseph E. Parsons '78 (BUS)

Beginning Their Service

Christopher J. Chadbourne '88 (BUS)
Dr. Robert W. Makuch '72 (CLAS)
Rodney S. Crevoiserat '87 MBA
Michelle Swanston '03 (CAHNR)
Kevin J. Kulak '85 (ENGR)

**The world moves forward because of UConn,
and everything we do is possible because of YOU.**

Thank you for being an essential part of this journey.

For a full list of the current and former UConn Foundation Board of Directors members, please visit <https://s.uconn.edu/bod>.

With gratitude,

The UConn Foundation Senior Cabinet

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*Recognized for his service posthumously

UConn students thrive when they connect with alumni mentors.
Students First

Students First

BECAUSE
OF The Campaign for UConn Nation
UConn

BECAUSE OF UCONN...



I met lifelong friends and because of my UConn degree, I got a job opportunity out of college; I met my future wife. The education I received from UConn as a doctoral student enabled me to change career paths and become a public school teacher and administrator. My time at UConn taught me the importance of giving back to my community. Now, my service as a volunteer leader on multiple boards provides me with both a sense of purpose and opportunities to make a difference in my community.

**CARTER WELCH '99 (ED), '11 CERT., '12 ED.D.
NEAG ALUMNI BOARD MEMBER**

YOUR SUPPORT MATTERS

Join Us



Because.UConn.edu

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