

# Impact

report 2018



WRIGHT STATE  
UNIVERSITY

FOUNDATION



Rebecca Cole

# impact



Dear Friends,

As I write this, I can't help but be overcome with emotion. This is my last message to you as vice president for advancement and president of the Wright State University Foundation. I will be retiring in June 2019 after 10 wonderful years with our great university and foundation.

I have worked for many institutions of higher education, but no university has touched my heart and soul like Wright State. We are blessed with loyal and generous donors, extraordinary alumni, talented faculty and staff, and the most hard-working students I have ever met, who inspire me every day with their stories of perseverance and determination.

Leaving an organization that you love is always bittersweet. I will depart Wright State with countless cherished memories, lifelong friendships, and tremendous pride in all that we have accomplished together. Thank you for making my Wright State experience one of the highlights of my career.

I would like to express my deepest appreciation to the current and former trustees of the Wright State University Foundation. Your service and support has meant the world to me. I couldn't have asked for a more dedicated group of people to lead our foundation. Thank you for your steadfast devotion to Wright State and, above all else, your immense love for our students.

I know the best is yet to come for our university and foundation. I look forward to watching you soar!

Warmest regards,

Rebecca Cole  
Vice President for Advancement  
President, Wright State University Foundation



# impact

Travis Greenwood



Greetings!

On behalf of the Wright State University Foundation Board of Trustees, I am pleased to present our 2018 impact report. Your support makes the dream of a college degree a reality for thousands of Wright State University students every year. Thank you for your generosity!

As a Wright State alumnus and foundation board chair, I am so proud of the outstanding work by our staff and trustees on behalf of our students. For all of us, our top priority will always be putting our students first.

As part of our continued commitment to supporting Wright State's students, the foundation recently launched the Students First Fund—a new grants program designed to help fund innovative programs and initiatives that promote student success. You can learn more about the Students First Fund in this report, and we look forward to sharing with you many stories of how these grants impact the lives of our students.

In June, we will bid a fond farewell to our beloved friend and colleague, Becky Cole. Becky's tenure as vice president for advancement and president of the Wright State University Foundation has been nothing short of remarkable. She has worked tirelessly on behalf of the university and our students. Thank you, Becky, for your leadership, compassion, and sense of humor. You will be greatly missed by all, and we wish you the very best in your retirement!

In appreciation,

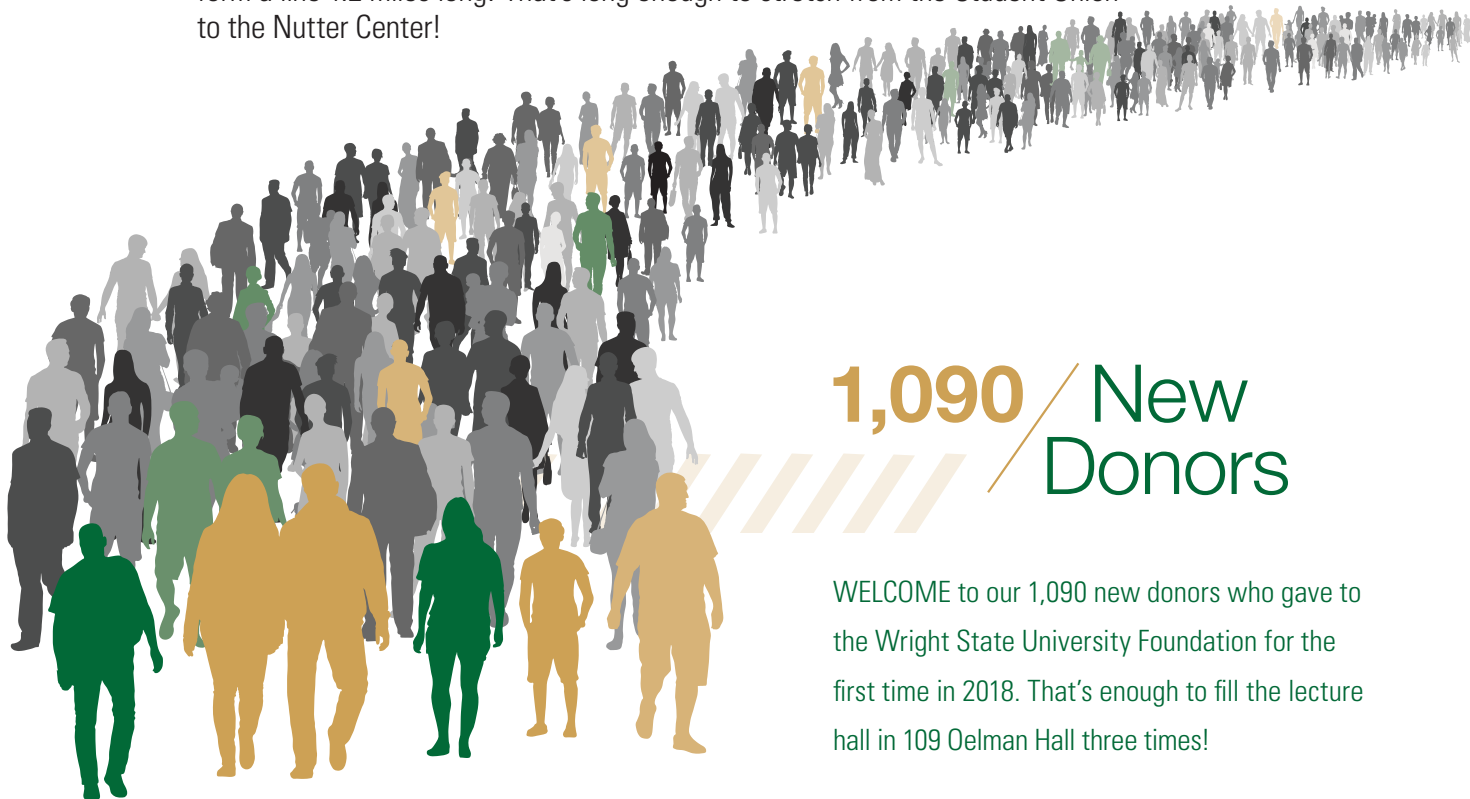
Travis Greenwood '84  
Chair, Wright State University Foundation Board of Trustees

# By The Numbers

Here is a closer look at gifts made to the Wright State University Foundation from January 1 to December 31, 2018.

WHO GAVE?	Number of Donors	First-Time Donors	TOTAL GIVING
Alumni	2,461	241	\$2,801,836.33
Friends	2,983	720	\$4,558,410.74
Corporations	323	92	\$1,843,443.68
Foundations	126	37	\$1,216,166.08
<b>Total Donors</b>	<b>5,893</b>	<b>1,090</b>	<b>\$10,419,856.80</b>

If the 5,444 alumni and friends who gave in 2018 were to stand side by side, they would form a line 1.2 miles long! That's long enough to stretch from the Student Union to the Nutter Center!



**1,090** / New Donors

WELCOME to our 1,090 new donors who gave to the Wright State University Foundation for the first time in 2018. That's enough to fill the lecture hall in 109 Oelman Hall three times!



## HOW LOYAL ARE OUR DONORS?

The following table shows the number of consecutive years that this year's donors have been supporting Wright State University.

Consecutive Years of Giving	Donor Count	% of TOTAL	
2018 Only	2,467	41.9%	<b>DID YOU KNOW?</b> 15.1% of this year's donors have made commitments to Wright State for 10 years or more!  43 of this year's donors have consecutive giving streaks lasting for more than 30 years!
Two Years	806	13.7%	
Three Years	463	7.9%	
Four Years	343	5.8%	
Five Years	282	4.8%	
Six Years	217	3.7%	
Seven Years	166	2.8%	
Eight Years	150	2.5%	
Nine Years	112	1.9%	
10 Years or more	887	15.1%	
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>5,893</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	

# 42 YEARS... AND COUNTING!

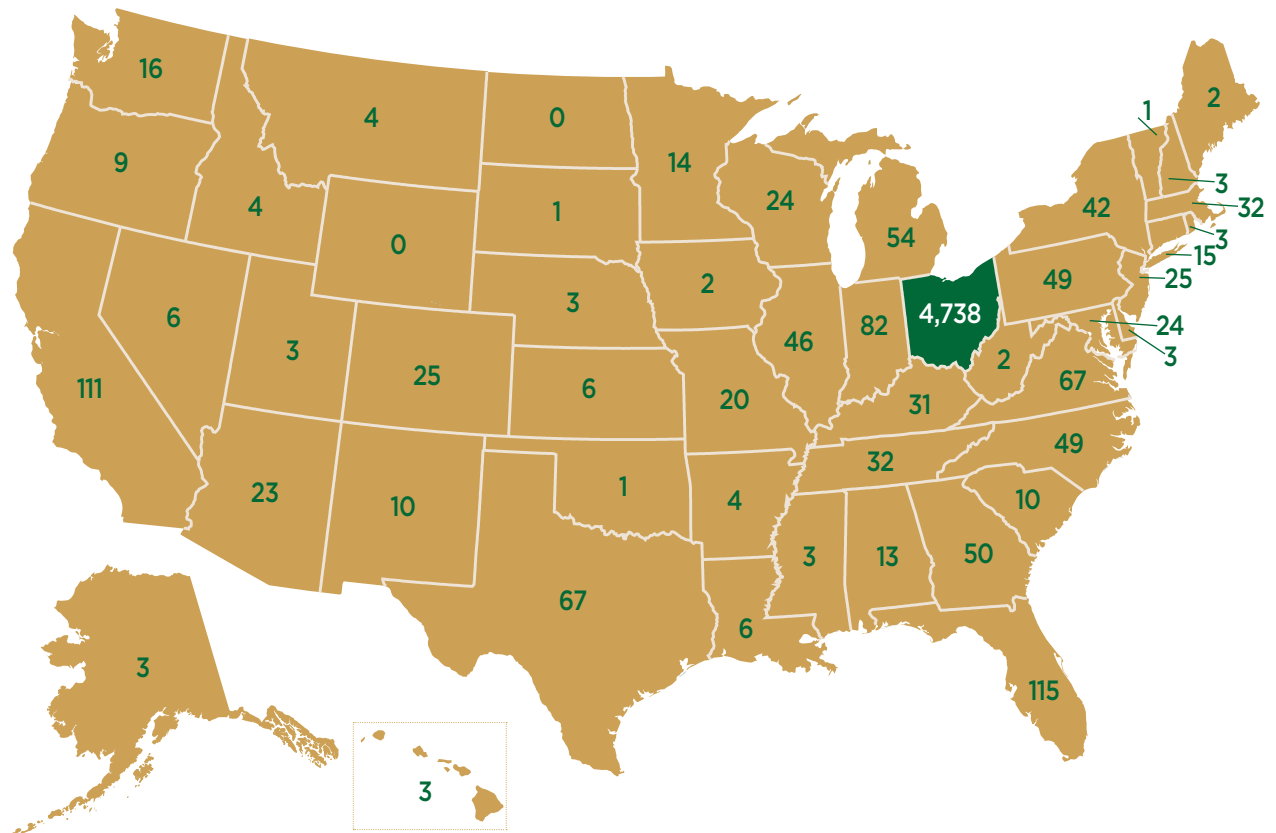


The individual with the longest active donor streak is John J. Fortman, emeritus professor in the Department of Chemistry. Fortman made his first gift to Wright State University in 1977 and has given every year since! He was a faculty member in the Department of Chemistry from 1965 to 2001.

# By The Numbers

## WHERE ARE OUR DONORS FROM?

In 2018, donors from 48 states, as well as Canada and the Netherlands, made gifts to Wright State. (7 donors from Washington, D.C. not shown)

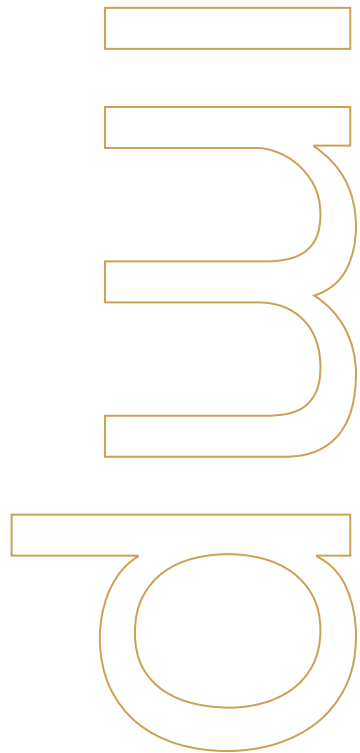


**\$3.3 million** / Scholarships

Last academic year, the Wright State University Foundation awarded **2,115 SCHOLARSHIPS** totaling more than **\$3.3 million**.



## WHAT DID OUR DONORS SUPPORT?



ACADEMICS		\$2,045,621.07
ATHLETICS		\$2,856,486.56
FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT		\$656,644.58
FACULTY SUPPORT		\$28,206.00
GIFTS-IN-KIND		\$1,147,589.62
LIBRARY		\$45,509.89
PROGRAMS AND SERVICES		\$798,601.19
RESEARCH		\$76,129.67
SCHOLARSHIPS		\$2,698,278.29
UNRESTRICTED		\$66,789.96

**GRAND TOTAL | \$10,419,856.80**

### EVERY GIFT COUNTS

1,982 donors made gifts of \$50 or less for a total of **\$48,249**. That's more than enough to pay for an undergraduate student's full-time tuition, books, and supplies for four years\*!

*\*Cost of full-time tuition, books, and supplies for two semesters is \$10,814.*

# Corporate Giving By The Numbers

Corporate giving in 2018 exceeded \$1.84 million, representing gift commitments from over 320 companies!

These corporations have a combined historical gift total exceeding **\$48.5 million**.

**85** of these corporations supported scholarships with their gifts.

More than **30** of these corporations have supported Wright State for **20 years or more**.

Six of these corporations have given more than **\$1 million** each during their total years of support.

**92** corporations were first-time donors in 2018, with a combined total gift commitment of over **\$90,000**.

thank you! thank you! thank you!

**Since 1974... and Still Going!**



**Heapy Engineering of Dayton** is one of the longest active corporate donors with their first gift commitment in 1974. A nationally recognized engineering firm, Heapy values the role of higher education in providing engineering solutions that enhance the learning experience. Their support of Wright State athletics, engineering, and the arts is outstanding! Michael Berning, senior principal at Heapy, is currently serving as chair of the ArtsGala Host Committee, helping the community to embrace this well-loved signature event at Wright State.



### FOR MORE INFORMATION

The Foundation's financial statements were audited by Crowe Horwath LLP. If you would like a complete copy of the Foundation's audited financial statements, please visit our website at [wright.edu/giving/financial-reports](http://wright.edu/giving/financial-reports) or call 937-775-2251.



# The Wright Day to Give

*One Day. Every Raider. Everywhere.*

To celebrate the university's Founders Day, Raiders came together on October 1, 2018 for the second annual Wright Day to Give—an online day of giving for alumni, friends, faculty, staff, students, and parents.

Here's what our generous donors made possible in just one day!



**550 / DONORS / \$69,581**

**77%** of gifts on the Wright Day to Give came from Wright State alumni



**SAVE THE DATE!**

Join us on Tuesday, October 1, 2019 for the third annual  
**Wright Day to Give!**



## Students First Fund

For the Wright State University Foundation Board of Trustees, the success of Wright State's students is a top priority. In an effort to bolster student success across the Dayton and Lake campuses, the board has created the Students First Fund—a new grants program designed to support innovative ideas that assist students to succeed, thrive, persist, graduate, and begin their careers.

The Students First Fund grants committee, which consists of members of the Foundation Board of Trustees, began accepting grant applications in January 2019. All Wright State students, faculty, and staff with a creative concept to promote student success were welcome to apply.

The grants committee will review all applications and make the final decision on how to distribute the \$50,000 in grants funding. Recipients of the Students First Fund will be announced in April, and the funding will be available for use in Fall Semester 2019.

We look forward to sharing with you soon the many success stories that the Students First Fund will make possible!



**\$50,000** / GRANTS FUNDING





“WRIGHT STATE IS ONE OF THOSE INSTITUTIONS THAT MEANS A LOT TO ME AND THE COMMUNITY. I SAW THIS AS A GOOD AREA WHERE MY FAMILY FOUNDATION COULD GET INVOLVED.”

# Saving Our History

*Linda Black-Kurek '78 fulfills her passion for her alma mater by supporting the new Wright State University Archives Center*

Linda Black-Kurek only recently made her first visit to Wright State University's Special Collections and Archives. The 1978 Wright State graduate admits she was somewhat overcome by the volumes of photographs, letters, journals, and other historic treasures on hand.

"It was just a little bit overwhelming, but it was so interesting," she recalled. "I was really amazed."

From the largest collection of Wright brothers materials in the world to the unique and unusual, like the handcuffs Dayton police used to arrest famed gangster John Dillinger, Black-Kurek enjoyed exploring all that the Archives have to offer.

Amid the photos of the Wright brothers' historic first flight, Black-Kurek also saw a need. She witnessed cramped quarters with barely enough space for staff and volunteers to go about their daily work. She observed shelf after shelf bursting at the seams with boxes full of Dayton's history.

Then she saw the dream of what could be. Black-Kurek toured the home of the proposed Wright State University Archives Center—30,000 square feet of vacant space at 2455 Presidential Drive, located directly across from Wright State's Dayton campus.

"They're not even comparable at all," said Black-Kurek of the current and future locations of the Archives. "The new space will be wonderful."

Immediately following both tours, Black-Kurek decided she wanted to do her part to help make the Wright State University Archives Center a reality.

"Wright State is one of those institutions that means a lot to me and the community," said Black-Kurek, who graduated from Wright State with a B.S.B. in accounting and a B.A. in communication studies. "I saw this as a good area where my family foundation could get involved."

The Linda Black-Kurek Family Foundation was founded in 2015 after Black-Kurek's company, Liberty Health Care Corporation, sold 15 long-term care facilities throughout the state of Ohio.

"My vision for the foundation is to help the Dayton community," said Black-Kurek, who is especially passionate about making a difference for the region's youth.

She currently serves as chair of the Board of Directors for Big Brothers Big Sisters and vice chair of the Board of Trustees for Dayton Children's. She also recently

joined the Board of Trustees at the Dayton Art Institute.

Black-Kurek is also committed to helping students at her alma mater, where she serves on the Wright State University Foundation Board of Trustees.

"Supporting Wright State overall is important for the community. Wright State is a critical learning institution for us," she explained. "Part of that is preserving Dayton's history and history overall. I think that's what the Archives project does. It's important for us to step up and save our history."

In appreciation of Black-Kurek's gift to *Discover Your Story: The Campaign for the Wright State University Archives Center*, the exhibit gallery in the new space will be named the Linda Black-Kurek Family Foundation Exhibit Gallery where rotating exhibitions will showcase the depth and breadth of the collections.

"I think it will be a nice introduction to the Archives for the community," said Black-Kurek. "They'll appreciate the Archives a lot more by looking through the exhibit gallery."



The Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation is dedicated to curing spinal cord injury by funding innovative research and improving the quality of life for people living with paralysis through grants, information, and advocacy. During this award cycle, they received an unprecedented total of over 600 requests, and Wright State's grant was one of only 66 awarded in support of the Reeve Foundation's dual mission of Today's Care, Tomorrow's Cure<sup>®</sup>. Funding for this new cycle of grants was made possible through a cooperative agreement with the Administration for Community Living (ACL). This is the second grant Wright State has received from the Reeve Foundation.



# Serving Up Accessibility

*New technology promises a better dining experience for students with disabilities*

A grant from the Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation could revolutionize how Wright State University students with disabilities eat their meals.

Thanks to the \$15,000 Direct Effect Quality of Life grant from the Reeve Foundation, Wright State's Office of Disability Services was able to purchase three robotic dining devices for students who need assistance feeding themselves.

Obi—which was invented by Jon Dekar, president and co-founder of Dayton-based DESiN, LLC—enables diners to have a more empowering and independent experience by giving them control over selecting food items from their plate and using a spoon to guide food to their mouths. The robot can be programmed for 6,000 different feeding positions within one millimeter of accuracy.

Dekar came up with the concept of Obi after watching his grandmother spoon-feed his grandfather, who suffered from a degenerative neuromuscular disease.

"I became appalled that in the 21st century, there wasn't a technology or significant product in the market that addresses this basic human need. Eating is

arguably the most basic human need," said Dekar. "I just became ferociously driven and obsessed with doing something about that."

Wright State alumna Jenny Border has used Obi to eat numerous times. She said the device has transformed the dining experience for her, enabling her to better engage socially with her dining companions and attend important professional networking events that involve meals.

Border knows from firsthand experience how Obi could be a great dining feature for Wright State students with disabilities.

When she was a freshman at Wright State, Border would often skip meals in the cafeteria because it was socially awkward for her. Her disability required that someone feed her or that she eat her food directly with her mouth.

"Students with disabilities just want to feel connected and be a part of the community," Border explained.

Obi will be available for Wright State students to use in spring 2019.

"We are incredibly grateful to the Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation," said Rebecca Cole, vice president for advancement and president of the Wright State University Foundation. "Because of the generosity of the Reeve Foundation, any Wright State student who needs assistance with eating will now enjoy the independence that Obi provides."



"I FEEL AT PEACE KNOWING THAT THERE WILL BE STUDENTS FOR YEARS TO COME THAT WILL BENEFIT FROM THIS ONE DECISION THAT I MADE. THIS GIFT WILL LIVE ON FOREVER."

# Making a Difference

*Cynthia Jones '05 will donate her home to fund scholarship for Wright State students*

Education has always mattered to Cynthia Jones. Even though neither of her parents graduated from high school, they both instilled in Jones and her eight siblings the importance of education. It is a lesson that she has passed along to her five children, her six grandchildren, and her students at Kemp Elementary School in Dayton.

“Education will always be the key. That will never change,” said Jones. “You need to be educated in order to secure a good quality life and a good future for yourself.”

Jones will help educate future Wright State University students through a bequest in her estate. The Wright State University Foundation will receive Jones’s home upon her death, which will fund a scholarship for students with financial need who are either African American or have a disability.

“I have a special place in my heart for the students with special needs,” Jones explained. “And I know Wright State has a higher percentage of students with disabilities than other colleges. That’s important to me.”

Jones’s scholarship will also honor the memory of her mother and grandmother.

“My mom and my grandmother were two of the strongest women that I’ve ever known,” she said. “What my mother and grandmother taught me made a difference. This is something that I can do to keep their legacy going.”

The scholarship is also a way to give back to the university that helped Jones when she was a student.

After serving 14 years of active duty in the United States Air Force, Jones came to Wright State as a divorced, single mother to earn her master’s degree and become a teacher.

“I wanted to do something that I knew would be good for me and my children,” she recalled. “Teaching offered the right schedule for me. I had a passion for it. And I knew it would work well for me as a single parent.”

As she was working on her degree, one of Jones’s professors recommended her for a scholarship.

“It was such a blessing,” she said. “I was so surprised that someone chose me to get this scholarship. I thought that was the greatest thing. From that point on, I knew that I was going to do something to give back.”

Transferring her home to Wright State in her will gives Jones the opportunity to make a significant impact without making a large gift of cash.

“People don’t think of the assets that they have that they could leave. It doesn’t have to be sitting in your bank account. There are other things that you can do,” Jones explained. “If what I’m doing as an average school teacher in Dayton Public Schools can make a difference to hundreds, maybe thousands of lives to come, then so can you.”

And the legacy of three strong women—Jones, her mother, and her grandmother—will be remembered by future generations of Wright State students.

“I just want to know that my life makes a difference. Many people think one person doesn’t make a difference. Well, there are hundreds of stories of just one person making a difference,” said Jones. “I feel at peace knowing that there will be students for years to come that will benefit from this one decision that I made. This gift will live on forever.”



“NEVER TELL A  
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-G.M. T

“YOU DON’T STOP SERVING AFTER YOU’RE DONE SERVING  
IN THE MILITARY. THIS IS MY DUTY NOW. IT’S MY DUTY  
TO GIVE BACK.”

# Mission Accomplished

*Air Force veteran and Wright State graduate Jonathan Granata'15 finds a new duty in giving back*

On a wall in the Quiet Study Room inside Wright State University's Veteran and Military Center is a quote by British historian, academic, and author G. M. Trevelyan: "Never tell a young person that anything cannot be done. The universe may have been waiting centuries for someone ignorant enough of the impossible to do that very thing."

The quote is one of Jonathan Granata's favorites. When the Air Force veteran and 2015 Wright State graduate provided a gift to support the Quiet Study Room, it seemed only fitting that this quote should grace its walls and inspire student veterans to reach for their dreams.

"You don't stop serving after you're done serving in the military," Granata explained. "This is my duty now. It's my duty to give back."

With his gift to the Veteran and Military Center, Granata is giving back to the people who helped him when he needed it the most.

"This place saved me in a lot of ways," said Granata of the Veteran and Military Center. After serving in the Air Force for five years, Granata sometimes struggled with transitioning from combat zones to the classroom.

He was older than most of his classmates and had been out of school for seven years. "It was a lot to take on," he recalled.

But Granata found a home and the support he needed in Wright State's Office of Veterans Affairs. The university's Veteran and Military Center was still in the planning stages at that point, but Granata was immediately embraced by the office's staff.

Director Seth Gordan hired Granata as a community engagement coordinator. "Dr. Gordon instantly saw something in me," Granata said.

In November 2014, the 4,500 square-foot Veteran and Military Center opened at Wright State. With about 1,800 square feet dedicated specifically for a student center, the Veteran and Military Center was designed to be a space where veteran and military students could efficiently get the support they needed to process their benefits while also relaxing, studying, and socializing with fellow veterans.

"It's a place where people can go and feel safe," said Granata. "You know everyone in here is a veteran. Most likely, someone in this building has dealt with similar issues. So, you can identify with people."

"If you haven't seen the Veteran and Military Center," Granata added, "come down and check it out. It's awesome. This should be a model for universities around the country."



# contact

## **Thank you for supporting Wright State University!**

Learn more about the ways you can continue to impact the lives of students and the community by contacting us:

In person / 3070 Presidential Drive, Fairborn, Ohio 45324

Mailing address / 3640 Colonel Glenn Highway, Dayton, Ohio 45435-0001

Toll-free phone / 1-800-535-0688

Local phone / 937-775-2251

Email / [giving@wright.edu](mailto:giving@wright.edu)

Website / [www.wright.edu/giving](http://www.wright.edu/giving)

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The Wright State University Foundation is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) corporation that receives and administers gifts for Wright State University. Although closely related to the University, the Foundation is a separate and distinct charitable organization and its affairs are directed and supervised by its own board of trustees.

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