Dear Friends,

Throughout the challenges of the past year, donors like you have rallied to create incredible new opportunities at Humboldt State University. Through your generosity, you are helping to create a brighter future for HSU students, the North Coast, and the world. Your donations have funded technology for remote learning, expanded basic needs funding, increased equitable access, and more. Specifically, support from organizations like the Humboldt Area Foundation helped to provide emergency housing and medical and crisis support throughout the ongoing pandemic. And generous donors like Dan and Cindy Phillips gave $1 million, including $100,000 in matching funds, to expand scholarships for local students to attend HSU.

As we move forward with a bold vision and plans to become California’s third polytechnic university, it’s clear our donors have helped us reach new heights. Every gift makes a difference in helping Humboldt State realize our potential as a transformational and forward-thinking university. Every donor reaffirms our shared commitment to educating tomorrow’s change-makers. As a supporter of Humboldt State, your generosity is making a difference—thank you.

Our 2020-21 annual report highlights how donors have directly impacted our students, ensuring that their time at Humboldt State is a sound investment in our shared future. Thank you for supporting big ideas and student dreams!

Frank Whitlatch
Vice President, University Advancement
Executive Director, HSU Foundation

Jennifer Harris
Board Chair, HSU Foundation
HSU Foundation

The HSU Foundation is a 501c3 nonprofit organization dedicated to building charitable support for the students and programs at Humboldt State University. It provides expertise and fiduciary oversight in managing the endowment and other charitable funds.

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Donors gave $9.4 million in 2020-21

$913 Average Gift Size
A record number of large gifts increased the average donation threefold

3,360 Donors
Helping students change the world

1,800 Alumni Donors
Alumni donated $3,118,000

674 Student Scholarships and Awards
with 108 supported through the Student Adversity Fund. That’s financial support for 1 in 10 students!

890 New Donors
Thanks for joining us!

$42,519,980 Endowment
Permanent funds that support HSU in perpetuity

10,240 Total Gifts
An average of three gifts per donor

Creating a brighter future through big ideas

Creating an Indigenous food lab and cultural workspace on campus
In partnership with local tribes, the Native American Studies department is raising funds to create a groundbreaking Food Sovereignty Lab and Cultural Workspace at Humboldt State. The Lab will operate as a commercial kitchen, with a plant drying station and salmon pit for preparing food, baskets, and regalia. Donors like the Batt Ingram family have pledged $60,000 to support Indigenous knowledge and equity through the Food Lab, which is slated to open Fall 2022.

Supporting local students on the North Coast
Investing in young people, making an impact
Harnessing the momentum of HSU’s polytechnic push, alumnus and donor Dan Phillips has committed $1 million in scholarships, including a $100,000 challenge for matching gifts, for local high school students who attend HSU. With the goal of making a positive impact in the community by investing in young people, Dan and Cindy Phillips hope that other donors will be inspired to create similar scholarships for future students from the local community.

Ensuring student success through hands-on experience
Supporting students in the natural sciences
The Braden Hogan Memorial Wildlife Internship Endowment was established to offer paid internships to Wildlife students, particularly those who are not traditionally represented in the natural sciences. The endowment was created in memory of Braden Hogan ('05, Wildlife) who cared deeply about environmental conservation and education.