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WKU honors more than 200 donors for consecutive years of giving and legacy gifts

- SUBMITTED 8 hrs ago

Dr. Melissa Dennison of Glasgow and WKU President Timothy C. Caboni pose for a photo during a brunch at the Augenstein Alumni Center on Sept. 8 where 200 donors were recognized for their years of consecutive giving and legacy gifts.



At a brunch held Sept. 8 at the Augenstein Alumni Center, more than 200 donors were recognized for their years of consecutive giving and legacy gifts.

The Society of 1906 recognizes and honors individuals who have chosen to leave a legacy gift in support of Western Kentucky University. Membership consists of those who have included WKU in their will, as a beneficiary of a life income agreement such as a trust or gift annuity, or as a beneficiary of a retirement plan or life insurance policy.

“Now in its 19th year of existence, the Society of 1906 has documented some 350 gifts, totaling in excess of \$100 million, in which WKU is included in a donor’s estate plans,” said John Paul Blair, interim vice president for Philanthropy & Alumni Engagement. “This, combined with the members of the Cupola Society who have supported the University for many, many years, shows the power of the WKU spirit and the passion our donors have for our University.”

The Cupola Society exists to recognize long-term donors, no matter the size of the gift, and to bring distinction to those individuals who support WKU through sustained annual giving. Special recognition is provided at the brunch to members who recently achieved new milestones of 20, 30, 40 and 50 years of consecutive giving.

“You are critically important and directly affect the lives of our students, the lives of our faculty and staff and the life of our university – both present and future,” WKU President Timothy C. Caboni shared with the attendees.

Dr. Melissa Dennison of Glasgow, who was recognized as a member of the Society of 1906, also spoke at the event. Dennison is also a member of the Cupola Society with 18 years of consecutive giving and a Lifetime Member of the WKU Alumni Association. She encouraged honorees to both include the university in their estate plans and support their favorite areas on campus now.

“If you’ve not already, consider thinking of WKU when doing your estate planning, but I would strongly encourage you to not wait until your death to enjoy seeing what your gift can do,” said Dennison. “Set up a scholarship now. Get involved now. Help a student now. WKU needs you. Let’s come together to make a difference in this university, this community and this state.”

Dennison is a past member of the WKU Board of Regents, where she served as vice chair and as secretary for two terms. She is also a past member of the WKU Alumni Association National Board of Directors, a member of the Henry Hardin Cherry Society, a member of the Lancaster Puckett Society, the 2016 Volunteer of the Year for the Ogden College of Science & Engineering Advisory Board and a Distinguished Service Medal recipient in 2016.

The presenting sponsor for this event was Hilliard Lyons.

For more information, contact Summer Bacon at 270-745-4036.

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