"We will be a private institution with a public purpose."

So said our founding president at Wilkes, Dr. Eugene Farley. In this most recent academic year, 2017-2018, we remained as faithful to this founding mission as ever.

During the course of the past year, we expanded our program mix to provide more academic opportunity than ever before. We now offer over 75 undergraduate and graduate programs for our students, conferring this past year 1,642 degrees – including 171 doctoral degrees – placing us in the top 10 percent nationwide for degree conferrals at private institutions.

Over the past year, we remained as accessible as ever to students. Consider these figures for our undergraduate students: 52 percent first-generation, 50 percent PHEAA grant-eligible, 40 percent Pell grant-eligible, 30 percent diverse. We continue to out-access most other private – and even many public – institutions in providing access to quality education.

Throughout the past academic year, we grew our scholarship and research enterprise. This means that our faculty members, along with their undergraduate student research assistants, are studying the biggest issues of our day: early cancer detection, wound care, patient treatment, and others (page 17). In this coming year, when the new Carnegie classifications are published, we will have evolved from a community college in 1933 to a doctoral university in 2018, continuing our evolution as a higher education institution.

Just since last August, we expanded our campus significantly, with the dedication of the Karambelas Media and Communication Center (page 29), the rededication of the expanded Sordoni Art Gallery (page 30), the construction of our new Engineering Innovation Center (page 13), and the acquisition of three more buildings adjacent to our campus. We are in the midst of a $100 million campus enhancement plan that will help to meet our decades-long dream of creating a traditional, residential campus, integrated into our host city of Wilkes-Barre.

And, finally, over the past year, we ramped up our commitments to our community by supporting services that encourage entrepreneurial activity and economic development. The Kirby Center for Free Enterprise & Entrepreneurship (page 9) and so many other outreach activities allow us to be a force for positive economic, cultural, and social development in our city and, increasingly, throughout the region. These are all services that I was once again proud to tout on the floor of the United Nations at this year’s Entrepreneurship Summit in May (page 34).

As you can see, Wilkes has never been more committed to our founding mission to be a private institution with a public purpose. Thank you all for being a part of it.

Dr. Patrick F. Leahy
President
Wilkes University honors the commitment of its founders with the First Generation Scholarship Fund supporting students who are the first in their families to earn a four-year degree.
Established five years ago, the First Generation Scholarship Fund closes an often critical financial gap for students who are the first in their families to attend college by providing scholarships to cover costs not already supported by federal, state or institutional financial aid. This financial help makes a crucial difference in helping first-generation students realize their dreams of earning a degree.

As a University that was founded to provide an education for the sons and daughters of immigrant coal miners, Wilkes has continued that mission with a first-year class that includes a high number of first-generation students. In fall 2017, 52 percent of the entering class identified themselves as the first in their family to pursue a four-year degree.

“Supporting these students is especially meaningful because, once the first family member earns a four-year degree, we know that event can re-set the trajectory of a family for the future, opening the doors to new opportunities for generations to come,” says Wilkes President Patrick F. Leahy.

Alumni and friends of the University have an opportunity to make gifts supporting the First Generation Fund at any time during the year. In 2014, the University established its marquee event, the Founders Gala, honoring the institution’s founders and raising money in support of the First Generation Scholarship Fund. Since its inception five years ago, the event has raised $2.3 million. Unlike some fundraising events which support an endowed fund, money raised annually at the event has an immediate and direct impact as it is distributed to students in the form of scholarships.

The Founders Gala also provides an opportunity to honor individuals who have continued the work of the University’s founders. At each Founders Gala, the President’s Medal is presented to individuals who have made impactful contributions with their time, talents and financial support in advancing Wilkes’ mission. The individuals honored with the medal have ensured that Wilkes remains true to its mission while evolving to become one of the country’s great small universities.

“It is my great hope to be able to alter the life of at least one Wilkes student, as you have changed mine.”

- Nancy Ramirez ’18
  First-generation Wilkes graduate
The Allan P. Kirby Center for Free Enterprise and Entrepreneurship is a significant force for economic development in the region, helping Wilkes to fulfill its mission of being a positive force for change in the communities it serves.

Regional Business Champion

The Allan P. Kirby Center for Free Enterprise and Entrepreneurship is a significant force for economic development in the region, helping Wilkes to fulfill its mission of being a positive force for change in the communities it serves.

As the Kirby Center marks 25 years on campus in 2018, it also celebrates a new vision for promoting entrepreneurial activity in the region. Founded to advance the concepts of free enterprise and entrepreneurship, its earliest focus was academic, providing the impetus for developing the region’s first undergraduate major in entrepreneurship at Wilkes.

Under the direction of Rodney Ridley, executive director and distinguished professor, the center developed a new focus, providing support and services designed to help fledgling businesses to grow. The support provided to these businesses ranges from office space in the Allan P. Kirby Enterprise Center, the center’s business incubator, to a full complement of free services, such as legal advice, accounting and marketing provided through a network of volunteer mentors in the business community.
he Kirby Scholars, a team of 17 of Wilkes’ most talented students recruited from all academic departments, provide an additional level of support to new businesses. The Scholars reap the benefits of mentoring and networking opportunities while adding valuable experience to their resumes.

Twenty-four businesses received support from the center this year. Fifteen of those businesses were started by Wilkes students, faculty and staff, and nine were founded by community members. Three of these partner businesses — all started by Wilkes students or recent graduates — already show promise. They are:

**Mount Everetts Frozen Confections**

The brainchild of Troy Everetts ’17, the business has developed a proprietary product blending the therapeutic properties of CBD oil with the pleasant flavors of Italian ice. It has attracted $2 million from investors.

**RAE Sleeves**

Wilkes senior marketing major Michelle Lehman ’18 won the first prize of $10,000 and $100,000 in in-kind services in the collegiate division of the TecBRIDGE business plan competition for her business, RAE Sleeves, a woman’s garment that adds long sleeves to any outfit.

**XenoWax**

Wilkes senior environmental engineering graduate Rachel Hodgin’s ’18 and mechanical engineering graduate Anthony Prato ’18 founded the company Xenoil. They won the Bucks County Community College Business Plan Competition for their product, a machinable wax made from recycled plastic grocery bags and paraffin that they call XenoWax.

The Allan P. Kirby Center’s role as a force for economic development in the region is further reinforced by the leadership it has shown in several regional initiatives. Partnering with economic development powerhouse TecBRIDGE, the center presented two innovation conferences. In addition, the center and its Kirby Scholars were tapped by the Diamond City Partnership and Poconos Northeast to develop northeast Pennsylvania’s proposal to woo Amazon to locate its second headquarters in the region.

Wilkes student entrepreneurs receive support for starting businesses from the Allan P. Kirby Center for Free Enterprise and Entrepreneurship. Students whose businesses got their start at Wilkes are, left to the right, Michelle Lehman ’18, Rachel Hodgings ’18 and Anthony Prato ’18. Not pictured: Troy Everetts ’17.

**HIGHLIGHTS**

$2,113,027
in investment was obtained via grants and other funding in support of the Allan P. Kirby Center for Free Enterprise and Entrepreneurship and its client businesses.

$58,638.50
in pro bono services from professionals such as attorneys and certified public accountants was received for clients of the center.

Rodney Ridley, executive director and distinguished professor at the Kirby Center, was named the 2017 Innovative of the Year by the Greater Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Commerce for his contributions to business development in the region. Ridley also was named a Pennsylvania Acceleration Educator of the Year.
Engineering Innovation Center Launches
A dramatic $8 million renovation of the Stark Learning Center will equip Wilkes engineering students with the skills relevant in the 21st century. The new facilities allow faculty to incorporate the fundamentals of leading-edge research into undergraduate courses.

The Engineering Innovation Center debuts in August 2018 ensuring that engineering students will graduate ready to meet the latest challenges in their field. The work is the first in a multi-phase project that is turning an outdated building into a campus showpiece.

"With the Cohen Science Center and our new Engineering Innovation Center, we are staking a claim that Wilkes will be relevant in STEM education in the future," said Wilkes President Patrick F. Leahy. "These enhancements to the Stark Learning Center further underscore the fact that Wilkes provides the resources of a large University in the caring, mentoring culture of a small liberal arts college."

Funded in part by a $3 million Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP) grant from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania that was matched by Wilkes, the renovated space houses nanotechnology, bioengineering and additive manufacturing flex laboratories. There is also dedicated space for 3-D printing and high-end computers that are integral in research. This fall, Wilkes will honor Randy ’81 and Robin Mark for their significant gift in making the project a reality.

In addition to flexible lab space created on the first floor of Stark, the project added a microfabrication lab on the lower level of the building, outfitted with equipment donated from ON Semiconductor. On the second floor of Stark, a flexible wet lab for bioengineering was added. In addition to creating new laboratory spaces, the project also added a new façade to Stark facing the Fenner Quadrangle.

Flexible features in the labs include moveable lab benches and partitions that can be used to reconfigure them into different sizes for collaboration. The flexible lab spaces can more easily adapt to course changes, making it possible to use the same lab for different courses in different majors. Rooms where students can meet in small groups rim the hallway. Flat screen televisions and other equipment provide full audio-visual capability.

**HIGHLIGHTS**

$8 million in renovations to Stark Learning Center have created flexible lab space in cutting-edge disciplines such as nanotechnology, additive manufacturing and bioengineering.

Project funding included $3 million in a state Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP) grant matched by Wilkes.
Wilkes University faculty are engaged in ground-breaking research on issues of global importance at a level usually only found at large research universities.
Scott Bolesta, associate professor of pharmacy practice, is studying the dosage of Vitamin C that can be used to prevent post-operative atrial fibrillation following cardiac surgery. Ajay Bommareddy, associate professor of pharmaceutical sciences, and Adam Van Wert, associate professor of pharmaceutical sciences, are collaborating with Bolesta on the research.

Ajay Bommareddy, associate professor of pharmaceutical sciences, is investigating the anti-cancer properties of alpha-santalol for prevention and treatment of prostate cancer. Linda Gutierrez, associate professor of biology, is collaborating on the research.

Linda Gutierrez, associate professor of biology, in collaboration with Valerie Kalter, associate professor of biology, is studying the role of stromal cells in colorectal cancer and Crohn's Disease. These studies might lead to more effective therapies for preventing and treating cancers.

Judith Kristeller and Dana Manning are working with regional hospitals to pilot a Transition of Care pharmacy model that will improve patient care after leaving the hospital by ensuring safe and effective use of medications.

Ali Razavi, professor of mechanical engineering, was awarded a patent for a product that could revolutionize wound care and healing. He is working with his research partners, Ken Pidcock, retired professor of biology, and Owen Faut, professor emeritus of chemistry.

Abas Sabouni, associate professor of electrical engineering and physics, is researching and developing microwave imaging to detect breast cancer. The technique relies on the contrast between the electrical properties of tumors and normal breast tissue.

Adam Van Wert, associate professor of pharmaceutical sciences, William Terzaghi, professor of biology, and Del Lucent, assistant professor of physics, are collaborating on research that may lead to a preventative treatment for kidney stones.

The University established a fund to support faculty research and, since its inception in 2016, has awarded more than $400,000 in grants, with 24 projects funded in the 2017–2018 academic year.

Wilkes undergraduates play significant roles in research, enriching their educational experiences while contributing to outcomes that many revolutionize health care and other fields.
Nationally Recognized

Wilkes University is among five Pennsylvania schools to receive the highest recognition for intensive English instruction.
Joining the company of the University of Pennsylvania, the University of Pittsburgh, Penn State and Drexel University, Wilkes was granted membership to University and College Intensive English Programs (UCIEP), an independent consortium representing the highest professional standards for intensive English programs in the United States. Wilkes is now one of just 80 schools in the country to be recognized for ensuring that students receive the highest quality intensive English instruction.

Wilkes is also one of the smallest schools to earn membership, continuing its mission to provide the opportunities of a large research institution in the mentoring environment of a small liberal arts college.

“Wilkes continues to evolve to a university of national prominence,” said University President Patrick F. Leahy. “Our nationally recognized intensive English program achieves two important University goals: academic distinction with the highest levels of accreditation, and growing our population of international students who wish to learn from an American private university like no other.”

Established in 2006, the Wilkes Intensive English Program (IEP) immerses international students in the study of the English language and American culture. It prepares international students to continue their studies at Wilkes or other American universities by focusing on reading, writing, listening, speaking and academic vocabulary.

The nearly two-year UCIEP application process began in 2015 under the guidance of IEP program director, Kimberly Niezgoda. Wilkes was assessed on a number of competitive factors, including achieving high academic standards, providing a language for teaching and learning and adequately preparing students for success at the university or college level, both in terms of English proficiency, and academic and cultural orientation.

Enrolling about 20 to 40 students each year, the IEP program is highly personalized to each student’s unique needs. Depending on their English fluency, the program lasts anywhere from one semester to just over one year, ensuring students leave the program with the language proficiency required to excel in higher education.

“We place a strong emphasis on mentoring our students and meeting their individual language needs, providing the best academic experience possible,” said Niezgoda.

And the results speak for themselves. In its program history, 90 percent of IEP students have gone on to earn their bachelor’s degree with 80 percent choosing Wilkes—outcomes that are universally understood. Of the 132 international students who have transitioned to Wilkes, 127 have earned their bachelor’s degrees and five are still enrolled.
The Final Word On Professional Ambition and Women

Gender stereotyping and gender bias manifest in many ways, including in language, literature and rhetoric. Helen H. Davis, associate professor of English, examines the issue in her writing and research. In the 2018 O’Hop Final Word Lecture, “Tenacious Women: The Victorian Gender Norms Confronted by Charlotte Brontë,” Davis examined enduring gender stereotypes. The lecture, which closed the 2018 Research Symposium, brought together the multiple interdisciplinary areas of Davis’s research and teaching at Wilkes, encompassing textual analysis, narrative theory, women’s and gender studies and stereotypes.

Davis identified lessons gleaned from her manuscript on Charlotte Brontë’s novels that help us understand some of the things that went wrong in the Clinton presidential campaign and where women méritons Brontë confronted are still part of our culture. Davis shared some of Charlotte Brontë’s techniques for dealing with the double bind of women in professional life. Some of Brontë’s techniques were used in her own professional dealings, and some are revealed through analysis of her novels.

Among the lessons Davis gleaned from analyzing Brontë’s narrative techniques are:

**Lesson 1** A woman must find a way to code her ambition enough to be visible, but still acceptable.

**Lesson 2** Sometimes a woman can code successfully and manage some amount of success—unfortunately this often requires compromises and lack of recognition.

**Lesson 3** Trying to vacillate gender performance between gender norms and representations is tricky at best and, unfortunately, the success of such a task relies on the acceptance of the audience. Some will accept your gender performance, but some will not.

**Lesson 4** A woman can’t be direct about her ambition because women are not supposed to want professional ambition; they’re supposed to have domestic ambitions. If you want to tell the story of professional ambition, use other parts of the story to disguise that plot.

**Lesson 5** It’s critical that a woman remains in control of her own story. If she can’t, her story will be co-opted by others for their own purposes.

**Lesson 6** All of the issues are more complicated within relationships because of the expectations placed on women within relationships, but that does not mean that women don’t want to have them.

Motivating Generations in the Workplace

Jennifer J. Edmonds, associate dean and director of graduate programs in the Jay S. Sidhu School of Business and Leadership, studied the challenges of motivating four generations of employees in the workplace. MBA student Karen Alumni assisted with the research. Edmonds identified the unique characteristics that define the Silent Generation (1925-1945), Baby Boomers (1946-1964), Generation X (1965-1980) and Generation Y (1981-2000). By analyzing the variety of needs posed by four generations present in the workplace for the first time in American history, Edmonds outlined a framework for successful strategies in employee motivation. The strategies encompass historical, traditional and contemporary practices while addressing the breadth of preferences of the four generations. The generations shared one factor that motivated job performance: all valued equitable or good pay.

Studying Sustainable Product Innovation

Anshu Arora, associate professor of marketing in the Jay S. Sidhu School of Business and Leadership, studied how sustainable product innovation affects user involvement, product marketing and consumer brand attitudes. Using three case studies from the bicycle industry, her research examined whether technological or design aspects of a product should be the focus for innovation. She also evaluated whether consumer opinions were more valuable than professional critics when evaluating new product innovations. Finally, she weighed whether a conscious or unconscious approach should be adopted when conducting user involvement research.

Using Barcodes to Study Biodiversity

The State of Pennsylvania’s ongoing efforts to re-establish vanishing grasslands and the species inhabiting them are receiving help from Jeff Stratford, associate professor of biology, and his students. Under two grants from the state’s Wild Resources Conservation Program, Wilkes biology faculty and students are working collaboratively to study food webs in the state’s grasslands. The expertise needed to identify insects is becoming more difficult to find, but barcodes are helping with the process. DNA barcodes are now used by scientists to identify different species. By using DNA sequencing, each unique species is assigned its own barcode. Stratford and other members of the Wilkes team are using DNA barcodes to identify soil microbes, plants and insects in food webs and using stable isotopes to determine food web structure. Grasslands may be maintained in different ways, such as mowing or spraying. The information collected by the Wilkes teams will be used by the state to determine how we can best maintain grasslands that maximize their biodiversity.

Innovative Online Planning for Teachers

Edify Universal, a client company of the Allan P. Kirby Center for Free Enterprise and Entrepreneurship, has developed PlanBook Plus, a software product that provides individual teachers with online lesson planning that is integrated with a tool that allows them to build quizzes and tests and a student gradebook. The tool also includes an online library of lessons available to teachers using PlanBook Plus. Edify Universal has developed and launched the software product while operating out of space in the Enterprise Center, the Allan P. Kirby Center’s business incubator. The company also has provided Wilkes students with internships. Partnerships with the University’s School of Education are under development.

Examining Food Insecurity and Obesity

Emily Havrilla, assistant professor of nursing, studied the relationship between food insecurity and obesity among female heads of household with children—a group that is considered a vulnerable population. Although Havrilla found a correlation between food insecurity and obesity, it hasn’t been proven that there is a causal relationship between the two. The research examined other factors—self-efficacy and perceived stress—as mediators between food insecurity and obesity. There were significant correlations between food insecurity and the female heads of household’s general perceived stress, between their general perceived stress and obesity, and between general self-efficacy and obesity. Self-efficacy was found to have a mediating effect on the relationship between general perceived stress and obesity within the study sample. Study results suggest that food insecurity may be an experience that exceeds individuals’ coping strategies, warranting further research focused on programmatic interventions to decrease general perceived stress and increase general self-efficacy.

Using Pharmacy Visits to Improve Patient Care

Nicole Pozzino, an assistant professor of pharmacy practice in the Neubert School of Pharmacy, was one of only five pharmacy faculty in the United States to be named a Faculty Scholar for Pharmacy.
by the National Association of Chain Drugstores Foundation. The faculty scholars program offers professors at accredited schools or colleges of pharmacy who are interested in patient-centered research in community pharmacies the opportunity to engage in an 18-month mentorship program. During the course of the program, scholars bring a research idea from concept to manuscript through a $2,500 starter grant provided by the foundation. Pezzino plans to research ways that various health-care providers working with a patient— including pharmacists— can better communicate with one another with the goal of improving patient care.

Device To Assess Loads on Bridges Wins Patent
Edward T. Bednarz, assistant professor of mechanical engineering, was awarded a patent for an invention that determines the magnitude and locations of loads on a simply supported beam using strain gauges. A practical application of the invention would be to turn a bridge into a living scale when vehicles are crossing. The invention, known as a force transducer, is based on research conducted for Bednarz’s doctoral dissertation and was first developed in conjunction with work he was doing with the U.S. Army. It is the fourth patent that Bednarz has received.

Software That Assesses Safety
Working with the Allan P. Kirby Center for Free Enterprise and Entrepreneurship, Ron Daniels, president and founder of TierraNOVA LLC, has developed a public safety app called Am I Safe. This app serves as an electronic safety companion to business employees, students, tourists and families. The app allows people to get a real-time assessment of their personal safety based upon their current location. Built on a proprietary algorithm, the app provides users with a safety factor that considers over 19 data sources including FBI data, state and municipal data, community information, local crime data and the user’s personal demographics information. It also allows municipalities to have direct contact with citizens using a web-based portal that allows for alerts, two-way messaging, mass callings, and links to closed-circuit video cameras. The company recently received a $35,000 grant supporting the development of the app from Ben Franklin Technology Partners Northeast. TierraNOVA, LLC’s corporate office is in the Allan P. Kirby Center Business incubator located at Northampton and Main in Wilkes-Barre.

Factors Impacting Macular Degeneration
Biologist student Dillon Davis conducted research studying the role that the enzyme Amyloid Beta plays in neurodegenerative diseases, with a focus on age-related macular degeneration. Davis’ initial findings showed that the accumulation of Amyloid Beta in lysosomes causes them to be nonfunctional. This has a domino effect: It leads to problems in retinal pigment epithelial cells. The role of retinal-pigmented epithelial cells includes providing photoreceptors—neurons in the retina contributing to humans’ ability to see— with nutrients and oxygen. Davis, a junior in the honors program, began his research during a summer internship at Southampton University in England. The internship was funded by a Dr. Joseph Donald Stephens, DDS Global Scholars Award, which provides students with a $5,000 scholarship to pursue their education in another country.

Examining Cell Signaling
Lisa Kadlec, associate professor of biology and a developmental geneticist, conducts research focusing on signaling by the epidermal growth factor receptor in Drosophila melanogaster, more commonly known as the fruit fly. The fruit fly can be used as a model system for understanding previously unstudied genes and figuring out what role those genes have in development. Kadlec notes that studying signaling by the epidermal growth factor receptor has broad implications: It’s important for the normal development of everything from worms to human beings. The results of her studies will help to identify the way that genes turn on by the epidermal growth factor pathway impact normal development, and how they may also have implications when normal cell function is disrupted, causing diseases such as cancer.

Encouraging Environmental Sustainability Practices
Ruth Hughes, assistant professor in the Jay S. Sidhu School of Business and Leadership, and Marleen Troy, professor of environmental engineering, studied the factors impacting the implementation of environmentally sustainable practices by small businesses. Their research was published as a part of Environmental Sustainability. The benefits of implementing such practices include cost reductions, improved business performance, increased value as an acquisition target and improved company image. With some 28 million small businesses in the United States, their potential environmental impact is significant. Yet small businesses struggle to implement practices that are environmentally sustainable. According to the research, there was a 16 percent increase in those small businesses that were engaging in environmentally sustainable practices.

In the third professional year of pharmacy school were trained using a novel training developed in the Niabtt School of Pharmacy or were trained using the online training sanctioned by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Students then completed a hands-on simulated overdose scenario in which naloxone needed to be administered. Students were evaluated on whether they completed the appropriate steps in administering the anti-overdose drug. They also were evaluated on the time it took them to complete the simulation—an important measure since seconds count in an overdose. The students who had the novel training had an average grade of 92 percent, while those using the state training had an average grade of 69 percent. The novel training students completed the simulation on average 23 seconds faster than the state-trained students.

Signaling Human-Robot Interactions
Yong Zhu, assistant professor of mechanical engineering, is working on a project using biological signals from the human body to communicate with a collaborative robot called Sawyer. Certain biological signals generated by the human body represent specific organ function, such as EEG or electroencephalography, for the brain and EMG, or electromyography, for the muscles. In Zhu’s project, the Sawyer robot will work with a person to execute real-time robotic tasks using EEG and EMG signals as feedback. Created by Rethink Robotics, Sawyer was created to automate tasks like testing circuit boards and machine tending—jobs that have traditionally proven too intricate for industrial robots.

Unlocking the Keystone State’s Political History
Thomas J. Baldino, professor of political science, opened the 2018 Scholarship Symposium with a lecture outlining his current research project examining how much— or how little— Pennsylvania government has changed in the 21st Century. His work will culminate in a book, Pennsylvania Government and Politics: Unlocking the Keystone State. Partnering with Paula Holovenk of Kutztown University, Baldino has gathered data from public sources. But the pair’s most significant research tool has been the use of elite interviewing. Baldino’s lecture focused on this technique, explaining how qualitative data from an interview is as valuable as the kind of quantitative data statistical analysis and outcomes from experiments—usually associated with research. His talk at the symposium explained how interviewees are selected, how questions are drafted and the mechanics of conducting the interviews. Two recent Wilkes graduates, Christie Glinn ’17 and Evan Sedor ’16, were instrumental in assisting with the research and interviews. Interviewees included most living former Pennsylvania governors, legislators, journalists, lobbyists and special interest groups actively involved with state government.

Baldino was selected to deliver the symposium’s opening lecture as the winner of the 2016 President’s Award for Excellence in Scholarship. The award recognized his 30-year career as a nationally recognized author and expert in political science. His research has appeared in political science and history journals, political encyclopedias and in many conference papers during his career. He is also the author, with his Wilkes colleague political science Professor Kyle Krader, of three books. Since the start of the 2016 presidential election cycle, his expertise has been features in stories appear in more than 100 regional, national and international news outlets, including The New York Times, Newsweek and CNN.
The Sordoni Art Gallery completed a successful first year in its new location in the Karambelas Media and Communication Center, affirming the University’s enduring commitment to the arts. A larger space – 7,000 square feet – in a more accessible location on South Main Street helped to draw record numbers to view its exhibits. During the 2017-2018 academic year, 5,580 people visited the gallery to attend exhibits, workshops, lectures and other events.

The Sordoni’s opening exhibition, Andy Warhol, 15 Minutes: From Image to Icon, set a record for attendance, drawing 3,028 visitors to view the iconic works of the artist whose name is synonymous with Pop Art. The second exhibition, The Bones of Us Hunger for Nothing, featuring paintings by Angela Fraleigh, offered uniquely reimagined views of women. The gallery’s first year ended with a landmark exhibition, Selections From The Sordoni Collection of American Illustration and Comic Art, which showcased more than 100 years of the art of illustration.

With the hiring of Heather Sincavage as the gallery’s new director who also serves as a faculty member, a robust program of lectures complemented each exhibition and enhanced the arts education experience both for Wilkes students and the larger community.

Karambelas Media and Communication Center

The 14,000-square-foot Karambelas Media and Communication Center was dedicated in August 2017, bringing the communication studies department co-curricular activities under one roof. These include WCLH Radio, Wilkes New Television, The Beacon student newspaper, the student-run public relations agency Zebra Communications and the speech and debate team. The facility includes offices and workrooms for the student organizations, as well as state-of-the-art television and radio studios, an audio room, a video editing room, faculty offices and classrooms. It is named in honor of Clayton ’49 and Theresa Karambelas, who made the largest gift in Wilkes history to support the project.

Wilkes received the 2017 Price of Place award from the Greater Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Commerce for the new Clayton and Theresa Karambelas Media and Communication Center and the new Sordoni Art Gallery. The opening of the two facilities transformed downtown space at 141 South Main Street into a premier educational asset. The projects are part of a $100 million campus enhancement plan that will help this University to achieve a decades’ long dream of building a traditional, residential campus fully integrated into the City of Wilkes-Barre.
The Campus Gateway Project

An expanded gateway will link the southern part of campus to the heart of campus in the same way that the Karambelas East Campus Gateway links Main Street to the Fenner Quadrangle. The project includes generous pedestrian walkways, gathering areas and event spaces.

Engineering Innovation Center

More than 15,000 square feet of space in Stark Learning Center is being renovated into a state-of-the-art engineering facility that will meet the changing needs of the engineering field through a flexible design, emphasis on collaboration and equipment that supports industry. Highlights include additive manufacturing and high-performance computing labs, a 3-D visualization space, two large flex labs, industry collaboration space and lounge areas.

Ralston Athletic Complex

An extensive renovation of the Ralston Athletic Complex will include a first-class baseball stadium, an additional multi-purpose turf field, a dedicated tennis center and spectator conveniences.

Campus Enhancement Project

The creation of new green space and a companion gateway at the south entrance to the Henry Student Center will transform a utilitarian area into a gathering space for students and all members of the campus community. Redesigned parking areas and landscaping will enhance both attractiveness and safety.
Provost Meets with Vice President of Panama

Anne Skledor, senior vice president and provost, met in May 2018 with Isabel de Saint Malo de Alvarado, vice president and minister of foreign affairs for the Republic of Panama. Under an agreement with MIRE, Panama’s ministry of foreign affairs, Wilkes delivers English language instruction via its award-winning intensive English program. The two also discussed an expansion of Wilkes’ partnerships with Panama’s senior vice president and minister of foreign affairs for the Republic of Panama, left, met with Anne Skledor, Wilkes senior vice president and provost, to discuss expanding partnerships with Panama’s diplomatic corps.

The agreement with MIRE is part of a comprehensive partnership developed by Wilkes with Panama. It includes participation in the MEDUCA-Bilingual Panama program, which brings Panamanian teachers to Wilkes for English language study. In June 2018, Wilkes welcomed its ninth group of teachers under the program. Another agreement with IFARHU, the agency that funds Panamanian students who want to attend college in the U.S., brings students to Wilkes for five years. In the first year, they complete English language study and academic preparation before spending the next four years completing their undergraduate degrees in one of Wilkes’ six colleges and schools. In the 2018-2019 academic year, Wilkes will welcome the third group of participants under the IFARHU program.

President Patrick Leahy Speaks At U.N. Supporting Small Business

President Patrick F. Leahy returned to the U.N. in May 2018 to speak about the role that colleges and universities can play in spurring economic growth. Leahy joined academic leaders from George Washington University, Santa Clara University, New Jersey Institute of Technology and others from around the world to support micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises. The event was organized by the International Council on Small Business.

It was Leahy’s second visit to the U.N. to speak about encouraging small businesses. In May 2017 he spoke on the occasion of the U.N. establishing Micro-, Small- and Medium-sized Enterprises Day. Wilkes was one of the higher education institutions signing the proclamation establishing the day.

In his 2018 U.N. address, Leahy spoke about how universities can aid in supporting these enterprises and encourage job creation. He cited three ways that higher education can be involved: produce more graduates, promote more research and provide more support in the communities they serve. Leahy spoke about how Wilkes is fulfilling each of those goals. He noted that Wilkes is developing innovative ways to educate a changing student population and is among the top institutions in Pennsylvania in the number of degrees conferred. He also outlined the robust research activity at the University and the programs provided by the Alan P. Kirby Center for Free Enterprise and Entrepreneurship that support new businesses in the region.

Scott Stolte Appointed Dean of Nesbitt School of Pharmacy

Scott Stolte joined Wilkes University as dean of the Nesbitt School of Pharmacy at Roseman University of Health Sciences in Henderson, Nev. He began his career in pharmacy education in 1998 at the Bernard J. Dunn School of Pharmacy at Shenandoah University in Winchester, Va. Stolte has an established national reputation in pharmacy education, serving in the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy. He also completed an Academic Leadership Fellowship with the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy.

Awarding Excellence

President Patrick F. Leahy presented the President’s Awards for Excellence during the fall convocation. Faculty and staff members who personify excellence in each of the University’s five core values are celebrated via a new program.

The 2017 recipients were:

Scholarship: Thomas Baldino, professor of political science, for advancing knowledge through discovery and research to better educate Wilkes constituents.

Community: Mark Allen, dean of students and interim director of the honors program, for his efforts in collaborating with others on campus with mutual respect to foster a sense of belonging.

Mentoring: Marie Roke-Thomas, associate professor of pharmaceutical sciences, for her efforts in nurturing individuals to understand and act on their abilities while challenging them to achieve great things.

Diversity: Erica Acosta, associate director of diversity affairs, for her efforts in embracing difference and uniqueness through sincerity, awareness, inclusion and sensitivity.

Washington Monthly Recognizes Wilkes For Contributing to Public Good

Wilkes was among the nation’s top colleges and universities included in Washington Monthly’s annual rankings of higher education institutions and what they are doing for the country.

The University was the highest ranked in northeast Pennsylvania to improve its ranking in the category this year. With his return to the U.N. in May, Leahy spoke about encouraging small businesses. In May 2017 he spoke on the occasion of the U.N. establishing Micro-, Small- and Medium-sized Enterprises Day. Wilkes was one of the higher education institutions signing the proclamation establishing the day.

In Washington Monthly’s annual rankings of colleges and universities included in the list of top institutions contributing to public good, Wilkes ranked 83 of 384 institutions in the northeast.

In the Contribution To Public Good category, Wilkes ranked 129 of 632 master’s institutions, jumping 15 spots since 2016. Wilkes is the only institution in northeast Pennsylvania to improve its ranking in the category this year.

Innovation: Charles Cary, executive director of facilities, for his efforts in promoting programs, ideas and sustainable practices.

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NEWS AT WILKES

Neumann University, streamlining admissions for Neumann students entering the pharmacy school.

of Pharmacy, seated center, signed an articulation agreement with Alfred Mueller II, dean of arts and sciences at the Aston, Pa.,-based university, academically qualifies students who complete from Wilkes University’s Nesbitt School of Pharmacy through an agreement with Neumann University. Under the articulation agreement, students will spend two years at Neumann and complete four years of pharmacy school at Wilkes.

Passan School of Nursing Makes the Grade

The Passan School of Nursing at Wilkes University has reached a 91.67 percent pass rate on the Pennsylvania State Board NCLER-RN exam. This places Wilkes above both state and national averages for this exam, allowing our nursing graduates to compete with those from top nursing schools.

New Majors and Minors Expand Student Opportunities

Wilkes increased opportunities for its students with new degree programs, majors and minors that expand career options after graduation. They included three programs that allow students to acquire a master of business administration degree in the Jay S. Sidhu School of Business and Leadership while completing degrees in other schools and colleges. A 4+1 bachelor’s degree/MBA program gives students the opportunity to earn both a bachelor’s degree and M.B.A. in five years. A PharmD/MBA program introduced in the Nesbitt School of Pharmacy allows student pharmacists to earn two advanced degrees in six years. These options join a program in which students can earn a bachelor’s degree and M.B.A. in industrial and organization psychology in five years.

The Sidhu School also added a new undergraduate major in hospitality leadership. Other new programs include a bachelor of fine arts degree in integrative media, art and design, a theatre design and technology major and minors in sport psychology and actuarial sciences, all in the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences.

Leading Efforts to Combat Opioid Epidemic

Wilkes University took a leadership role in northeast Pennsylvania in educating about the opioid crisis when it presented the 2018 Pain and Addiction Summit in April. New York Mets All-Star pitcher Dwight “Doc” Gooden, the conference keynote, was one of baseball’s brightest stars of the 1980s until his career was sidetracked by addiction. In addition to Gooden’s address, the continuing education event brought together medical, legal, and law enforcement professionals to discuss the current state of the opioid crisis, share methodology and interprofessional approaches to deal with critical issues, and identify opportunities to approach the treatment of pain and substance abuse. The summit is one effort among many led by faculty and students in the Nesbitt School of Pharmacy to address this public health emergency.

Men’s and Women’s Tennis Teams Set Records For Consecutive Championships

The Wilkes University men’s and women's tennis teams hold the University record for winning the most consecutive MAC Freedom Championships, securing their spot at the NCAA Tournament. The tennis teams also hold a conference record: No other Wilkes sports team has won as many consecutive conference championships. Both teams are coached by Chris Leicht. The men’s team won its 11th straight league championship after posting a 9-0 sweep of cross-town rival King’s. The women’s tennis team captured its 12th straight MAC Freedom Championship after posting a 5-0 sweep over Fairleigh Dickinson University-Florham. Both teams were eliminated in the first round of the NCAA Tournament.

CQA Institute Brings Wall Street’s Best To Wilkes

Wilkes played host to some of the investment world’s best and brightest when CQA Institute’s Advanced Management Investment Program was held on campus in June 2018. CQA — also known as the Chicago Quantitative Alliance — is a national professional association for investors who use quantitative techniques. It was founded 24 years ago by Wilkes alumnus Dan Cardell ’79, who serves as chairman of the organization’s board of directors. The goal of the Advanced Management program is to educate the next generation of investment professionals in these techniques.

About 25 of the country’s brightest college juniors and seniors from the United States and abroad comprised the inaugural cohort. Three students from the Jay S. Sidhu School of Business and Leadership — Saidat Sanni, Kyle Gattuso and Aaron Sadowki — joined peers from the University of Pittsburgh, MIT, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, the University of Massachusetts Lowell, Rutgers, Mc Gill, San Diego State, Bucknell, Southern Methodist and Washington universities, as well as the University of Augsburg and the Indian School of Business. Faculty members included the top professionals in the world of investments, such notables as Gus Sauter, former chief investment officer for Vanguard, who oversees portfolio management of Vanguard’s $3.7 trillion of internally managed stock, bond, and money market funds.
Founders Gala 2018 Raises $820,000 for First-Generation Scholarships

Members of the Wilkes community – alumni, faculty, staff and friends of the University – gathered to support the First Generation Scholarship Fund at Founders Gala 2018. The event raised more than $820,000 to provide scholarships to students who are the first in their family to attend a four-year college. Since its inception in 2014, the event has raised more than $2.3 million.

Lawrence E. Cohen ’57 was presented with the prestigious President’s Medal at the event, given to an individual whose personal and professional life reflect the highest aspirations of Wilkes University. Cohen’s support is best reflected in the University’s Lawrence and Sally Cohen Science Center, a $35 million, 72,500 square-foot interdisciplinary science facility built in 2013. The science center was named in recognition of the couple’s $2.5 million gift in support of the project – one of the largest gifts in Wilkes history. It brings four floors of state-of-the-art laboratories together to encourage collaborative research and study.

Gateway to the Future Campaign Entering Final Phase

Wilkes’ $50 million Gateway to the Future Campaign has exceeded the $40 million mark in commitments. Launched in tandem with the University’s strategic plan of the same name, the campaign will launch its final phase with a public celebration on Friday, Oct. 5, during Homecoming weekend. The event will include a presentation and reception.
Support for the campaign includes traditional philanthropy, government grants and strong annual support. The projects and initiatives supported by the campaign include the development of 141 South Main Street as the Karambelas Media and Communication Center and Sordoni Art Gallery, creation of the Engineering Innovation Center in Stark Learning Center, completion of the Campus Gateway project, renovation of the Ralston Athletic Complex and significant scholarship and research support.

SHINE Receives $1.2 million Grant From 21st Century Fund

The Luzerne County SHINE Program at Wilkes University received a $1.2 million grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Education’s 21st Century Fund. It is the second time SHINE has received the grant funding. The grant, administered over three years, provides operating support for four of the after-school program’s sites. SHINE centers supported by the grant are the middle-school program centers at Hazleton Area Career Academy and Wilkes-Barre Career and Technical School and the Maple Manor elementary center in Hazleton and the Heights-Murray elementary center in Wilkes-Barre.

SHINE, which stands for Schools and Homes In Education, serves students in eight centers. The program, offered four days a week, uses a project-based STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) curriculum to kindle excitement about learning. School districts served by the program are Hanover Area, Hazleton Area, Greater Nanticoke Area, Wilkes-Barre Area and Wyoming Valley West.

Wilkes Awarded $2.7 million To Enhance Pedestrian Safety

The Pennsylvania State Transportation Alternatives Program awarded $2.7 million to Wilkes for projects to enhance pedestrian safety on streets bordering campus. The project also provides improvements that will help pedestrian walkways to complement the look and feel of the Karambelas East Campus Gateway and the planned South Campus Gateway. $1.2 million will be spent on improvements to South Main Street between W South Street and Northampton Street. The project will include new sidewalks, curbing, street lights and trees on both sides of South Main Street. An additional $1.5 million will provide a pedestrian crosswalk and lights from the parking lot behind the Henry Student Center across South Franklin Street to the Annaul C. Martin Sports and Conference Center.

Building Prepares for New Life Via $750,000 Grant

A $750,000 Industrial Site Repurposing Program Grant from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania will be used to remediate a property at 116 S. Main St. acquired by Wilkes. The University has not yet determined a use for the property, which is located next to Marquis Art and Frame, across the street from the Karambelas Media and Communication Center.

Gift From Bob Bruggeworth ‘83 Supports New Athletic Field

A $1 million gift from Bob Bruggeworth ‘83 will establish a new field at the Ralston Athletic Complex. The new multipurpose field will be located adjacent to Schmidt Stadium and will include bleachers, lighting and a scoreboard. Bruggeworth is making the gift in honor of his mother. The construction of this new field is a key component of a multi-million dollar renovation of the Ralston Athletic Complex.

Bruggeworth is president and chief executive officer of Orvo, a communications chipmaker headquartered in Greensboro, N.C. Prior to leading Orvo, he was president and chief executive officer of RFMD, which merged in 2014 with the Oregon-based semicondutor company TriQuint to form Orvo. Bruggeworth has returned to Wilkes as a guest speaker in a leadership class taught by University President Patrick F. Leahy. He earned a bachelor’s degree in electrical engineering at Wilkes. He also played on the Colonels men’s soccer team and continues to support the team as a benefactor, supplying them with jackets and other items.

$2 million Grant To Create New Spaces for Pharmacy

A $2 million Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP) grant will be used to renovate areas in the Stark Learning Center to create a pharmacy collaboration corridor for the Nesbitt School of Pharmacy. The work funded by the grant will include enclosing the open portals that run along the River Street side of the building and that open on Stark’s courtyard. Glass will be used to enclose the portals to create new classrooms, conference and collaboration rooms. The project includes renovating the space formerly occupied by the Sordoni Art Gallery to create new classroom space and creating two large classrooms on Stark’s lower level. Hallways also will be renovated. The pharmacy school will have first priority for using the area but classrooms also will be available for other disciplines. The project is expected to start in summer 2019.

Grant Will Create Walkways Near Ralston Athletic Complex

A $500,000 multi-modal fund grant from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania will be used to create sidewalks, curbs and add trees near the Ralston Athletic Complex, located in Edwardsville. The work will complement an extensive renovation of the complex that will include a first-class baseball stadium, an additional multi-purpose turf field, a dedicated tennis center and spectator conveniences.

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A Force for Positive Change in the Communities We Service

Wilkes University’s commitment to being a positive force for economic, social and cultural development in the region is reflected in initiatives that spur entrepreneurial activity, enhance education in school districts and in the hours of community service provided by faculty, staff and students. The University’s substantial impact is reflected in the more than $200 million in economic output that its operations generate for our community.

Community Service

Wilkes faculty, staff and students provided 104,000 hours of service last year. The U.S. Bureau of Labor and Statistics values this service at $2,567,760. County and city governments are supported with over $146,337 in direct contributions.

7,700+ public school elementary and high school students in the region benefit from programs sponsored by Wilkes including Science in Motion, Women Empowered by Science, Adventures in Science, Earth and Environmental Science Day, the Wilkes University Entrepreneurial Experience (WUEE) and art and reading camps.

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Family Business Alliance

The Family Business Alliance celebrated its 20th anniversary on May 15, 2018, with a dinner and program held at Mohegan Sun Pocono. The event featured a video of the history of the alliance and keynote speaker James Kane, a leading researcher and authority on what makes someone loyal to an organization, a cause or to another person.

The alliance supported 33 family business members with educational programming, tours of member businesses, and networking opportunities. Wilkes students can attend these programs, which provide excellent educational opportunities.

Wilkes University offers members of the alliance reduced tuition for family business owners, their family members and all employees.

The Institute for Public Policy and Economic Development

The Institute conducted over 30 research projects to support clients in the higher education, government, health care, non-profit, cultural, business and transportation sectors.

The Institute was commissioned by the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia on a project to improve transportation for the underserved and vulnerable populations in the region.

Tori Ooms, Institute executive director, was named one of the Top 20 Distinctive Women of 2018 by The Times Leader.

The Institute held the 13th annual Indicators Forum to share critical regional data and research with community leaders. The dialogue from these forums has been a driving force behind many important economic development and community revitalization projects for the region.

Small Business Development Center

The Small Business Development Center provided more than 3,000 hours of consulting services to over 300 individuals in a five-county region. This consulting resulted in 30 new business startups and created or retained 215 jobs.

The SBDC assisted clients in securing $3.5 million in capital and access to $5 million in government contracts.

Twenty-six training programs were offered and 252 individuals from the five-county area served by the center attended.

Luzerne County SHINE Program at Wilkes University

SHINE, which stands for Schools and Homes In Education, serves students in eight centers in five participating school districts. The after-school program uses a curriculum that develops skills in science, technology, engineering, arts and math (STEAM). Family Nights provide additional support for students and their parents and guardians.

- 570 students had transformative educational experiences
- 947 family members attended Family Night events
- 22,000 meals served
- 1,050 home visits were conducted for pre-kindergarten and kindergarten students.

Upward Bound at Wilkes University

The U.S. Department of Education-funded program at Wilkes is the oldest in the State of Pennsylvania. It supports low-income students and those who may be the first in their family to attend college.

- 125 students from nine Luzerne County high schools participated in 2017-2018.
- All 38 of the program’s graduating seniors are continuing their educations, with 36 entering college and two joining the military.

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| **141,000,000** | Total dollars in the University’s annual operating budget |
| **37,000,000** | Total dollars distributed as institutional financial aid |
| **13,733,083** | Total committed from philanthropic support, pledge, and government sources |
| **12,595,333** | Amount spent on campus improvement projects |
| **2,300,000** | Amount raised/distributed to date in the First Generation Scholarship Fund |
| **1,000,000** | Amount committed to the Faculty Research and Scholarship Fund |
| **820,000** | Dollars raised at Founders Gala 2018 |
| **400,000** | Amount awarded in research grants to faculty since the University research fund was established |
| **104,000** | Hours of service provided to the community by students, faculty and staff |
| **26,834** | Square feet of new concrete walk installed as part of campus enhancement projects |
| **9,851** | Greatest number of miles traveled by a Wilkes student for a study abroad experience |
| **5,880** | Number of people who visited the Sordoni Art Gallery in its new location for exhibitions and related educational events, such as lectures, workshops and residencies |
| **1,642** | Total bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degrees conferred |
| **400** | Number of novels, memoirs, nonfiction works, articles, poems and short stories published by members of the Maslow Family Graduate Program in Creative Writing community |
| **127** | Number of international students who have completed Wilkes’ Intensive English Program who have gone on to earn degrees at the University |
| **52** | Percentage of Wilkes students who are the first in their family to attend college |
| **47** | Number of undergraduate bachelor's degree programs |
| **44** | Number of new trees added as part of campus enhancement projects |
| **42** | Number of states represented among Wilkes undergraduate and graduate students |
| **28** | Number of home countries of Wilkes students (in addition to the U.S.) |
| **6** | Number of students graduating in May 2018 with a perfect 4.0 grade-point average during their years at Wilkes |
| **1** | Number of private universities with the opportunities of a large research institution, the mentoring culture of a liberal arts college and educational offerings that are open to all who show promise – Wilkes University.
As you can see, Wilkes has never been more committed to our founding mission to be a private institution with a public purpose.

Thank you all for being a part of it.

- Patrick F. Leahy
Wilkes University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, age, religion, disability, pregnancy, gender, gender identity and/or expression, sexual orientation, marital or family status, military or veteran status, or genetic information in its programs and activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the University’s non-discrimination policies: Samantha Hart, Title IX Coordinator, 10 East South St., Wilkes-Barre (570) 408-3842.