

# Benefactor



UNIVERSITY OF  
ARKANSAS

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CAMPAIGN *Arkansas*



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## A Message from Vice Chancellor for Advancement Mark Power



This year has been difficult for many, and good news has been hard to find in some cases. In this issue, you'll find page after page of it, thanks to the philanthropy of our donors and the accomplishments of our faculty and students.

I hope you come away from this issue with a renewed sense of positivity. Challenging times like these also bring forth opportunities – for growth, for truth and for change. Throughout it all, the University of Arkansas remains committed to finding ways to have a positive impact.

This spring, we shifted our fundraising focus to help students who found themselves in the midst of financial emergencies and were able to help many of them through the challenges they faced. In the months ahead, we will continue to focus on our students, especially those who are underrepresented. Advance Arkansas, our new Student Success Center and our diversity and inclusion initiatives are all vital components of our students feeling at home on campus and being successful. Financial difficulty is the number one roadblock for many, but private gift support transforms these challenges into opportunities and provides pathways for underrepresented students to accomplish their dreams. Campaign Arkansas may be wrapping up this summer, but helping our students will continue to be a priority. Our commitment to this is unwavering.

Throughout this year, one thing has remained certain: Razorbacks are stronger together. We are part of a unique, resilient community and are dedicated to helping each other. We care. We lift each other up. And we carry hope for the future.

Thank you for being a part of our campus's extended family.

Mark Power  
Vice Chancellor for Advancement

CAMPAIGN *Arkansas*

### ON THE COVER

The sound of silence reigned supreme on the University of Arkansas campus this spring, with students, faculty and staff all working remotely during the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite the challenging times, the Razorback community found a way to band together and help each other. On page five of this issue, you'll learn more about the Student Emergency Funds that were promoted to support students encountering financial difficulties and the donors who stepped up to ensure more funds could be awarded. For more inspiring stories about how the U of A remained Determined to Help during the crisis, visit [uark.edu/determined](http://uark.edu/determined).



## Electrical Engineering Students, Outreach and Facilities Benefit From \$1 Million Gift

The American Electric Power Foundation made a \$1 million gift to support electrical engineering outreach, improve undergraduate research opportunities and provide upgrades to student facilities at the University of Arkansas. Support from the foundation will focus on three areas: the College of Engineering's K-12 Scholars Program, the Research Experience for Undergraduates project and improving laboratory space in the Department of Electrical Engineering.

"We are pleased to present this grant to the University of Arkansas' Electrical Engineering department on behalf of the AEP Foundation," said Malcolm Smoak, SWEPCO president and chief operating officer. "This outreach will inspire students to think and learn about engineering, and then enhance the engineering experience when they get to the University of Arkansas. It's a great combination of initiatives."

The K-12 Scholars Program and the Research Experience for Undergraduates project will each receive \$300,000 from the gift. The remaining \$400,000 will support the renovation of laboratory space in the Department of Electrical Engineering, which will benefit undergraduate and graduate students for years to come. The renovations will include the Senior Design Capstone Laboratory and the National Center for Reliable Electric Power Transmission (NCREPT). The Senior Design Capstone Laboratory provides an opportunity for students to apply the engineering skills developed throughout their undergraduate careers, and NCREPT enables researchers to investigate solid-state solutions for high voltage applications such as the electric power grid, including protection devices and energy storage applications.

The AEP Foundation is funded by American Electric Power (NYSE: AEP) and its utility operating units, including SWEPCO, which serves approximately 120,000 customers in Arkansas.



Photo by DAVID SPEER

Shelley and Doug McMillon, left, chat with a student at a visit to the McMillon Innovation Studio.

## McMillons Increase Support for Innovation Studio

Doug and Shelley McMillon have committed an additional \$1 million gift to the McMillon Innovation Studio to further student work in product management. The McMillons gave an initial \$1 million in 2014 that led to the creation of the McMillon Innovation Studio through the McMillon Family Retail Innovation Fund. The studio, which is housed in a transformed former retail space in the Harmon Parking Facility on campus, offers a flexible and comfortable environment for students, faculty, staff and industry interactions. It provides students with workshops, mentors, seed funding and resources to collaborate, create and innovate. Those who participate in these unique learning opportunities develop skills and experience to work in established industries or to start and build a business of their own.

The students at the studio, who come from a variety of majors and colleges across campus, work with industry partners on challenges and opportunities that require innovative approaches. A focus of the studio is helping students become "product management ready" by the time they graduate and begin careers.

"We're excited to continue to invest in the University of Arkansas and its students," said Doug McMillon, who is the president and chief executive officer of Walmart Inc. "Learning how to solve customer problems fast is key to staying ahead of change. We hope to help prepare and inspire a new generation of students to take on these challenges in the retail industry and others."

PHOTO BY CHRISTINA NICHOL



Leaders from Southwestern Electric Power Company and the University of Arkansas gathered in February to celebrate the \$1 million gift.

## Burnett Award Benefits Faculty

Alumnus Kent Burnett of Greenbrier believes that attracting the best faculty helps attract the brightest students. His \$250,000 commitment to the G. Kent and Deborah D. Burnett Endowed Faculty Excellence Award in Data Science will recognize outstanding faculty in the College of Engineering for their exceptional work.

“I love the University of Arkansas, particularly the engineering college,” Burnett said. “We can compete with anyone in the world in analytics and big data, and I’m excited about the opportunities there. Corporations have a need for more and better data, as well as people who can use the software. The U of A can be competitive in this area.”

The chosen faculty member may utilize the award funding to enhance student support and teaching and research in data science while advancing the mission of the data science program.

“This award should be an incentive to faculty and provide the unique opportunity to attract new faculty to the program,” he said. “When you get the best faculty, they’ll attract the brightest students.”



Kent Burnett

PHOTO BY WALT BEAZLEY



Morgan Burks-Magee

## Fowler Facility Fosters Phenomenal Student-Athlete Experiences

In 2014, the Wallace and Jama Fowler family made a \$2.5 million gift to help fund the university’s Baseball and Track Training Center, an indoor facility connected to the north end of the Randal Tyson Track Center.

Since then, the Fowler Family Baseball and Track Training Facility has served thousands of Razorback student-athletes with its approximately 52,000 square feet of climate-controlled practice space, which features a full size practice infield, throwing area, batting areas and ancillary team spaces. For track and field, it provides an expansive check-in and warm-up area for track meets and allows all indoor meet throwing events to be held on site.

Morgan Burks-Magee, a junior from Dallas, came to the University of Arkansas because of its championship environment and family feel. For her, it turned out to be “everything I’ve dreamed of in one place.”

“I’ve had a phenomenal experience,” she said. “I’ve been a part of a U of A legacy, and I’ve run on the fastest track in the world.”

Burks-Magee was the third fastest freshman for the indoor 400 and typically runs the 400, 4x400 relay and 400 leg of the distance medley relay indoors. In 2019, she earned a pair of first-team All-America honors for indoor track and field. The Fowler Family Baseball and Track Training Facility has been a true asset to her training and performance as a student-athlete.

“I like that everything is very close,” she said. “It makes it more fun during meets. The lanes are wider and the materials are professional quality.”

A kinesiology major, Burks-Magee hopes to run professionally and then pursue a career as a chiropractor.

# Alumni and Friends Restore Hope for Students Battling Financial Difficulties

This spring, many U of A students found themselves facing financial difficulties as a result of COVID-19. They dealt with unprecedented disruptions to their academic journeys as they transitioned to remote learning, saw local jobs eliminated or hours cut short and found numerous programs and events canceled. Throughout this trying time, though, many alumni and friends reached out to help by contributing to the university's student emergency funds.

Student emergency funds assist U of A students with unexpected needs that arise from situations outside their control. Thanks to help from private gifts, the university could better address the hardships and provide aid by helping students navigate financial difficulties such as:

- Housing and food insecurity
- Reduced job hours/income
- Technology needs for remote learning
- Medical care and prescriptions
- Travel costs to return home
- Other unforeseen expenses

“These emergency funds are a campuswide effort to help our students,” said Mark Power, vice chancellor for advancement. “Some of the funds help students from specific areas, such as law or business, and others are focused on students from certain backgrounds, like international students or student veterans. We’ve seen such an outpouring of support for all of these areas, and I know our students and their families are very grateful that we’ve been able to offer assistance during this time. So many of them are facing hardships, and we’re happy that we can help in this small way.”

Since March 18, the Razorback family joined together to make nearly 400 gifts, raising more than \$85,000 for five different emergency funds on campus.\* These included:

- The Needy Family Graduate Student Emergency Fund
- The International Education Catastrophic Fund
- The U of A Cares Student Emergency Fund
- The Student Veteran Emergency Fund
- The Law Student Emergency Fund

The Sam M. Walton College of Business also began a new emergency scholarship initiative for the retention of students who wished to continue their education online and prevent the disruption of their college career. More than \$176,000 had been raised for this scholarship so far.\*

“We are so grateful to our alumni, faculty, staff and friends who have so generously provided support to graduate international students hit hard by the coronavirus pandemic,” said Kim Needy, dean of the Graduate School and International Education. “These funds will go a long way to relieving the students’ financial stress and ensuring that they continue to thrive in their academic studies and scholarly work.”

Melissa Harwood-Rom, senior associate vice chancellor and dean of students, said, “We have extraordinary alumni and community members who want to know that they have supported our students in a direct and personal way. I can’t say enough about the impact they have on individual lives. Such generosity not only allows students to continue their education – it’s about restoring hope.”

*\*Totals current as of June 1, 2020.*

## STUDENT AWARDS Totals current as of June 1, 2020

|                     |           |                   |                            |                             |
|---------------------|-----------|-------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| INTERNATIONAL<br>35 | 11<br>LAW | NEEDY FAMILY<br>9 | 90<br>STUDENT<br>EMERGENCY | VRIC<br>EMERGENCY FUND<br>4 |
|---------------------|-----------|-------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|

## TOTAL BENEFICIARIES

149

To contribute to the ongoing student emergency funding efforts, visit [fundrazor.uark.edu/g/emergingneeds](https://fundrazor.uark.edu/g/emergingneeds).



Gary Peters and the newly named William Dillard Department of Accounting



William T. Dillard

## Names and Numbers

What's in a naming? For the newly named William Dillard Department of Accounting, it means extensive benefits to the department, its faculty and its students.

Thanks to a planned total gift of \$10 million from William T. Dillard II, current chairman and chief executive officer of Dillard's Inc., the accounting department in the Sam M. Walton College of Business is now named in his father's memory. The William Dillard Department of Accounting is one of only two named departments on the University of Arkansas campus and will have a transformational impact on its development.

"In accounting, we teach our students the importance of strategic budgeting processes within organizations," said department chair Gary Peters. "Endowments allow us to do the very same thing in our own department. They allow us to identify, plan and support mission-critical and aspirational activities."

Peters is familiar with the impact of endowments. As the S. Robson Walton Endowed Professor, he has the opportunity to assist students, reach alumni, elevate the university's reputation in accounting and interact with others in the accounting profession, thanks to his own endowed position.

"These opportunities fill me with an incredible amount of pride and gratitude to be a part of the University of Arkansas," he said. "Endowments at the university produce compounding returns for Arkansas and society at large. As a result, we are all allowed to be a part of the larger purpose or story. This is one of the reasons why

my family chooses to include the university in our own annual giving plans."

The late William T. Dillard, who graduated from the university's College of Business Administration in 1935 with an accounting degree, was responsible for the development of one of the nation's retail giants. The department named in his memory has four strategic focus areas: advancing student success, fulfilling our research mission, affirming the Arkansas flagship and developing leaders of the accounting profession. Peters says each of these areas involve students, faculty, alumni and external constituents, and the department's new endowment will allow them to support each of these groups in ways that could not be done previously.

"While most people might view the university through the lens of the classroom, our functions and impact reach much further," he said. "Hundreds of students already benefit from Mr. Dillard's generosity every year, but now thousands of students, the accounting profession and the Arkansas business economy will continue to benefit for years to come. As a member of Arkansas' flagship university, the accounting department has a storied history of contributions to Arkansas' accounting profession. The Dillard gift expands those contributions and opportunities for students as a nationally recognized program.

"Similar to the adage 'Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day; Teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime,' endowments not only provide the fishing poles, they produce generations of individuals who pass along the lessons."

## Past Presidents Look Toward the Future With New Scholarship

The Past Presidents of the Arkansas Alumni Association are doing their part to encourage student success with a new \$50,000 Advance Arkansas scholarship.

The Past Presidents are individuals who served the Arkansas Alumni Association National Board as president and laid the foundation for the future of the association. They demonstrate vision and appreciate staying connected to the student body at the university.

Kenny Gibbs (B.S.B.A. '85), who served as president of the Arkansas Alumni Association Board of Directors from 2006-08, rallied the group to take action and create the fund.

“We’ve heard from student recipients in the past and learned firsthand how scholarships make an impact on them,” Gibbs said. “There are 24 living past presidents, and we can all open doors for these recipients. We’d love for all of the past presidents to participate in funding this endowment and help it grow.”

Brian Rosenthal, president from 2004-06, was also instrumental in getting the fund started.

“Our beautiful ‘Alma Mater,’ written by students after the turn of the 20th century, uses poetic phrases like, ‘Beacon of hope,’ ‘Pride of our hearts,’ and ‘Loyal and true,’” he said. “Through this scholarship, which may be awarded to the first student in a family to attend college, the past

presidents have joined together to support and welcome new students to our beloved university family.”

“Our past presidents have always led by example with passion for our students and dedication to the University of Arkansas,” said Brandy Cox, executive director and associate vice chancellor for the Arkansas Alumni Association. “This scholarship is a testament to the lasting impressions and legacies they have made on the Arkansas Alumni Association. We are grateful for their leadership.”

Funding for the scholarship began in 2019 during the university’s fourth annual day of giving, All In for Arkansas, when more than \$10,000 was raised toward the endowment thanks to a challenge gift from Lawson Hembree (B.S.A. '82), the association’s 75th president.



The Past Presidents of the Arkansas Alumni Association at a gathering in April 2019.

## East, Clark Add Advance Arkansas Scholarships for Walton Students

Two couples from Little Rock are helping more Arkansas students have the financial assistance they need to attend the U of A, thanks to their Advance Arkansas scholarships. As with all Advance Arkansas scholarships, they will support new, returning and transfer students from Arkansas who exhibit financial need, records of academic success and a strong desire to complete their degree at the U of A. Both will give preference to students in the Sam M. Walton College of Business.

Bob and Cynthia East have created the Robert and Cynthia East Advance Arkansas Endowed Scholarship with a \$50,000 gift and plan to make additional contributions so the scholarship can be awarded sooner.

“I’ve enjoyed being involved with the Walton College again and appreciate the practical applications of business that Dean Waller and the Walton College faculty share with their students,” Bob East said. “We’re happy to give back to

the university’s students, because we know they will make a direct impact on the world.”

“We love this state so much,” Cynthia East continued. “It’s home, and it’s important to keep students in our state. We’re very excited about this scholarship, and it’s very important to us.”

William Clark and his wife, Christy, paid tribute to the Clark family’s legacy at the university with a \$60,000 pledge. Their gift created the William Clark Family Advance Arkansas Endowed Scholarship.

“At the end of the day, universities exist to help students achieve their goals,” William Clark said. “There’s not a more effective way to help students than to reduce the financial burden that so many young people face pursuing a college degree. I really enjoy being a part of things where I can see the impact I’m having, and a scholarship is a great way to do that.”

## Inspired by a Legacy, the Gearhart Scholarship Proves Life-Changing

In 2015, Chancellor Emeritus Dave Gearhart and his wife, Jane, were honored with the creation of the G. David Gearhart and Jane Brockmann Gearhart Endowed Scholarship, which was the result of more than \$1.7 million from donors who were family, friends or fans of the couple. The scholarship was established to provide funding to academically accomplished undergraduate students at the university who demonstrated financial need.

Fast forward to 2017, when Maddison Schuller of Mena, Arkansas, became one of the first recipients of the Gearhart scholarship. Schuller knew she wanted to be a pharmacist when she came to the university and applied for scholarship support every year. When she and her husband were married during her college career, they became financially independent, so every bit of support they received made a difference.

“Scholarships help you so much in so many different ways,” she said. “They’re life-changing, and they help you do things you might not do otherwise. They were really a blessing, because they helped pay for everything.”

Schuller graduated without any loans or debt and earned a degree in chemistry with a concentration in biochemistry from the university in just three years. She is now enrolled in pharmacy school at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences.

“My husband and I would like to get to the point where we can give back one day too,” she said.

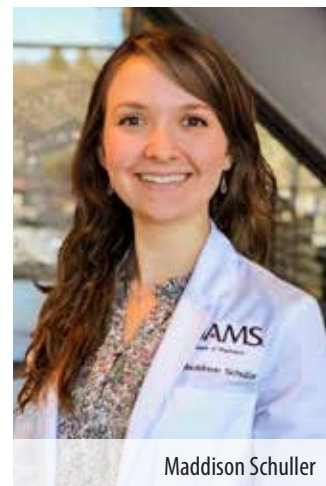


Photo by LAURABOY

Maddison Schuller



Marcia Patton

## Marcia Patton Remembered Through New Nursing Endowment

Dottie Patton says her late sister, Marcia, was “a gift” and “the best of the best.” To honor Marcia’s love for nursing and helping others, Dottie and her mother, Ann Patton, are establishing the Marcia Patton Nursing

Endowment with a \$100,000 gift to the College of Education and Health Professions.

“Marcia was one of a kind,” Dottie Patton said. “She was tough, she was kind, and she worked hard every day of her life. Her heart was gold. She was more than a sister to me, she was my best friend and my hero.”

Originally from Jonesboro, Marcia earned her associate’s degree in nursing from the U of A and later earned a Bachelor of Science and Master of Science in Nursing. Her career spanned 42 years, and her hard work and

dedication led her to become the head of the Arkansas State Board of Nursing. She worked for 15 years at the Arkansas Department of Health, where she developed expertise with childhood vaccinations, family planning, immunizations and worldwide diseases.

Dottie Patton says Marcia’s life was spent taking care of her family and friends, including two grandparents, her paraplegic brother, her father and her mother, Ann. Marcia also served in the Persian Gulf War, where she earned the rank of lieutenant colonel.

The endowment will provide funding for nursing students who have a need for financial assistance. Preference will be given to undergraduate students involved in military service or those who plan to seek employment in the areas of emergency, trauma or surgical nursing, military nursing or public/global healthcare, including immunizations and international diseases. Preference will also be given to students from Arkansas.



# Space Hogs Shoot for the Stars

Space Hogs, a registered student organization at the U of A, promotes interest in space and planetary science while educating the community through outreach events. In late 2019, the group promoted a crowdfunding initiative in conjunction with the Office of Annual Giving to raise funds for a new mobile planetarium and raised more than \$8,000 toward their effort.

Ellen Czaplinski, a doctoral student in space and planetary sciences, and Woody Gilbertson, a doctoral student in physics, helped organize the fundraiser on behalf of Space Hogs. Both said they were excited, optimistic and nervous about the project before it started, and they were delighted with the results.

“A year ago, this seemed like an impossible dream, but with the community’s help, our dreams are coming true,” Czaplinski said. “Ultimately, this new planetarium will allow us to present more accurate space science information, which will inspire a new generation of scientific explorers right here in Arkansas.”

Now that the Space Hogs have secured this initial funding, they are eligible to apply for resources from additional sources toward their total purchase of \$30,000. Once the mobile planetarium is purchased and Space Hogs members



Space Hog members at the 2017 total solar eclipse in Fulton, Missouri.

are trained, the group plans to host an average of one to two outreach events per month.

“Ellen and I will graduate and move away from the U of A, but this planetarium will be continuously updated with the latest science to keep educating more and more people,” Gilbertson said. “This new planetarium will act as the premier space science education asset in the area.”

To contribute to the remaining funding needs for the mobile planetarium, visit [capitalprojects.uark.edu/planetarium](https://capitalprojects.uark.edu/planetarium).

## Schmieding Gift Funds Social Work Internships

The Schmieding Foundation has a robust history of supporting students at the University of Arkansas, and their recent gift of \$125,000 to fund an internship position builds upon that commitment. Their gift will increase visibility for the School of Social Work in the J. William Fulbright College of Arts and Sciences and create the Schmieding Endowed Internship, allowing students to work alongside experienced social workers to assist others from their community.

“Our mission is to serve children and the elderly,” said Gilda Underwood, president of the Schmieding Foundation. “We have an existing endowment at the university that addresses help for the elderly, so we envisioned this one focusing on the kids in our area. There is an increasing demand for social workers, especially in the schools, and I’m really proud that

we have such a good School of Social Work to partner with at the U of A.”

Recipients of the internship will be chosen through a competitive application process, and preference will be given to graduate students. Interns will be assigned to the Schmieding Developmental Center for at least two semesters or nine months.

“Providing students with real-world experiences like these internships is so essential to educating and creating the social work leader practitioners our society needs,” said Kim Stauss, chair of the school. “By working hands-on in our community, they will gain valuable critical thinking skills and experience, readying them to help address our community’s pressing need for more social workers.”

## Caryl Stern Headlines International Women’s Day Event

Women’s Giving Circle members are alumnae and friends who recognize that women as donors are capable of making a tremendous impact. This dynamic group of women pools their resources to make funds available for innovative grant proposals from University of Arkansas faculty and staff that promote scholarship, research, and service with a focus on enriching the lives of women and children and providing outreach to Arkansans. Members meet annually to vote on proposals and award grant funding.

The Women’s Giving Circle has awarded more than \$1.4 million to 112 projects since 2003. Funded projects range from literacy and breast cancer research to summer programs and student support. The circle has also created two scholarships of its own – the Women’s Giving Circle Founders Endowed Advance Arkansas Scholarship and the Women’s Giving Circle Endowed Scholarship in Nursing.

At its celebration of International Women’s Day on March 9, the circle featured guest speaker Caryl Stern, executive director of the Walton Family Foundation. Stern spoke about her experience as a woman leading national and international organizations throughout the course of her career. Guests celebrated the impact of the Women’s Giving Circle and acknowledged the history of the group,



Caryl Stern (center) with members (from left to right) Sandy Steinmetz, Billye Veteto, Caroline Rochelle, Kellie Knight and Emily Money.

including a unique connection to the Walton family through founding member Lynne Walton. Updates were provided on several recent grants including the Tiny Tusk Breastfeeding Tent, a patent boot camp for women and minorities in STEM, Soaring High in Engineering Camps and microprobes designed to study brain disease.

To participate in the circle’s fall 2020 reception and voting event on October 29-30, please consider joining by August 30. Visit [womens-giving-circle.uark.edu](http://womens-giving-circle.uark.edu) for more information about membership.

Photo by RACHEL AREST



Bill Keenan

## Journalism Endowments Created in Memory of Walter J. Lemke

Alumnus Bill Keenan of Charlotte, North Carolina, describes the late Walter J. Lemke as “a very inspiring individual” and has created two endowments in his former professor’s memory.

The Walter J. Lemke Freshman Endowed

Journalism Scholarship in the J. William Fulbright College of Arts and Sciences and the Walter J. Lemke Journalism Collections Endowment in the University Libraries will be established with \$50,000 gifts for each, paying tribute to Lemke’s founding of the department of journalism at the U of A and commitment to his students.

“Dr. Lemke wanted the U of A to be *the* place where the state’s newspaper writers were trained,” Keenan said. “He

took a personal interest in what you wrote, and he’d give you good advice anytime you were given a writing assignment. His influence made for a quality education, and I felt confident I’d be able to get a good job after graduation.”

The Walter J. Lemke Freshman Endowed Journalism Scholarship will be awarded to an incoming first-year student who is majoring in journalism in the Fulbright College’s School of Journalism and Strategic Media.

Preference will be given to those who have volunteered for their high school yearbook, newspaper or other publication staff, or to those who have contributed original features valuable to those publications.

The Walter J. Lemke Journalism Collections Endowment in the University Libraries will support student and faculty research by allowing for the purchase, maintenance or digitization of materials related to the field of journalism.

# The Unstoppable Claire Sanchez



Claire Sanchez

Claire Sanchez and her family are no strangers to the University of Arkansas. Her grandparents, parents, cousins and brother all attended the U of A, so it seemed only natural that Sanchez would follow in their footsteps.

Teaching also comes naturally to her. She recalls arranging her stuffed animals in her room and playing school as a child, which could explain why she gravitated to the College of Education and Health Professions' teacher preparation program. Sanchez earned her Bachelor of Science in Education in 2019 and is now pursuing a Master of Arts in Teaching. In the program, she has garnered classroom experience at George Elementary in her hometown of Springdale, as well as Kirksey Middle School in Rogers.

Throughout her journey, Sanchez has benefited from private gift support, such as the Henry G. and Stella Hotz Scholarship Fund and the John H. and Jane W. Donaldson Endowed Memorial Scholarship Fund. Receiving the latter was a "humbling moment" during her graduate career, as she knew it meant she wouldn't have to try to work while finishing her master's degree in one year.

"Receiving scholarship support makes me feel like I'm part of something bigger than myself," she said. "It's an investment in my future. It makes me feel unstoppable."

I would like to influence others the way the Donaldsons have influenced me. These donors are lighting the flames we will carry into the future."

Sanchez is primarily focused on early childhood education and would ultimately like to open a school that specializes in helping children who have encountered severe trauma, abuse or human trafficking, so the curriculum offered to them accounts for their difficult circumstances.

"I've worked with girls who have come out of trafficking situations in India and with kids who have been severely abused," she said. "I want my curriculum to give something back to them. I also want to leave a legacy beyond my lifetime that helps people for generations to come. I don't really care if people ever know my name. I just want them to be impacted for good through my actions."

With her incredible drive, love of a caring family and scholarship support, Sanchez may truly be unstoppable. And she will undoubtedly carry on her family's legacy at the U of A.

"It's been an honor to be a U of A student," she said. "I came into this just focused on myself, but now I see how I can impact the world."



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