



Samuel Merritt University

19

09

HONOR ROLL OF DONORS

JANUARY 1, 2024 – DECEMBER 31, 2024

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Samuel Merritt University

Dear SMU supporters,

As we reflect on the remarkable year of 2024, I'm filled with gratitude for your unwavering support of Samuel Merritt University (SMU). Your generosity has been instrumental in shaping the future of healthcare and empowering countless students to pursue their passions.

This year, SMU has made significant strides, thanks in large part to your commitment. Here are a few highlights:

- **115 Years of SMU**

2024 marked two significant milestones in our history — the 115th anniversary of the establishment of SMU originally known as Samuel Merritt Hospital School of Nursing and the 110th anniversary of the establishment of the College of Podiatric Medicine (CPM) formerly the California School of Podiatric Medicine. We've since evolved into a comprehensive health sciences university with four campuses in Oakland, Sacramento, San Mateo, and Fresno with another state-of-the-art campus set to open in 2026 in downtown Oakland.

- **Central Valley Campus Expansion**

In August, we expanded our reach and accessibility with the launch of the new Fresno campus and Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing (ABSN) program, creating more opportunities for students in the Central Valley to join the SMU community and pursue healthcare careers where they are needed most.

- **National Recognition and Awards**

Our Human Trafficking Prevention & Response Education Program (HT P.R.E.P.), designed to train healthcare providers to identify and respond to human trafficking, received the prestigious Innovations in Professional Nursing Education Award from the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) along with two \$500,000 grants from the U.S. Department of Justice. This recognition underscores our commitment to addressing critical healthcare issues.

These achievements are a testament to the power of partnership and the impact we can make together.

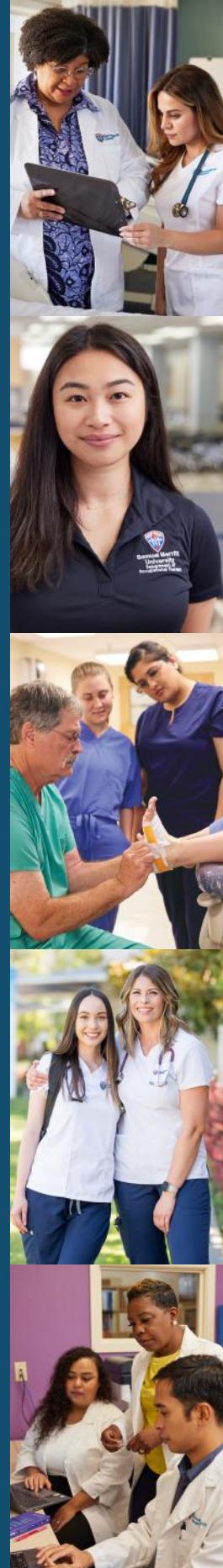
As we look ahead to 2025, we are excited about the opportunities to continue to educate and innovate making a difference across California. Your support is and will continue to be essential in helping us achieve our goals.

Thank you again for your incredible generosity. Your partnership is invaluable.



Sincerely,

Dr. Ching-Hua Wang
President, Samuel Merritt University





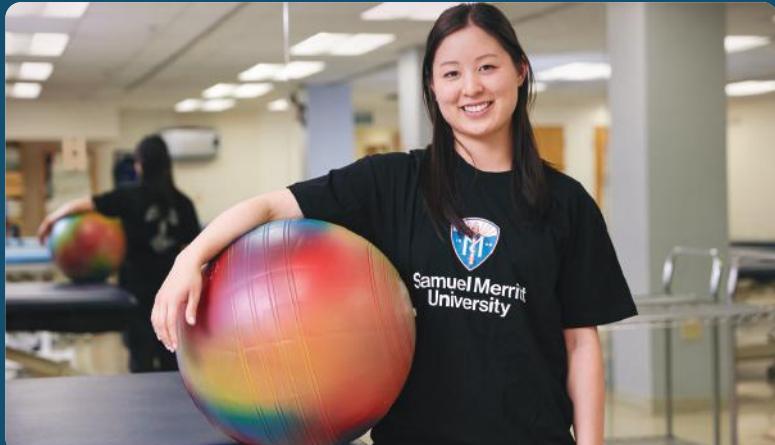
SMU LEADERSHIP CIRCLES: TRANSFORMATIVE PHILANTHROPY

Members of our SMU Leadership Circles make a powerful impact on Samuel Merritt University and our students. We acknowledge and appreciate their significant role in the University's advancement — leadership donors are crucial SMU partners in advancing the future of healthcare.

To express our gratitude to this special cohort of supporters, Leadership Circle benefits include:

- **Special event invitations.**
- **Exclusive SMU swag.**
- **Recognition throughout the year.**

Leadership Circle giving is crucial to empowering the aspiring minds of tomorrow's healthcare professionals, unlocking their fullest potential for good.



RECOGNIZING OUR LEADERSHIP CIRCLE DONORS

Individual donors acknowledged in full list below.



PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE

Members make an annual gift of \$1,500 or more to Samuel Merritt University.

*Membership indicated with * by name.*

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HEALTH SCIENCES DEAN'S CIRCLE

Members make an annual gift of \$500 or more to the College of Health Sciences.

Membership indicated with # by name.





1909 LEGACY SOCIETY

The 1909 Legacy Society recognizes the generous individuals who advance SMU's mission to educate highly skilled and compassionate healthcare professionals through provisions in their estate plans.

Members as of December 31, 2024

*Founding Members, whose generous gifts and intentions were recognized prior to the creation of the 1909 Legacy Society in 2019.

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We have taken great care to accurately recognize our generous legacy donors; however, we are happy to correct any errors or omissions. Please contact us at legacy@samuelmerritt.edu.

“

I love my podiatry practice and I'm grateful to my podiatry school. I am supporting student scholarships annually and in my estate plan because I care about the future of podiatric medicine.

- Katrina Jawitz Di Pasqua, DPM 1990
Endowing her scholarship through her estate plans.

”



“

I chose the SMU College of Podiatric Medicine because of its rich history and the influence of alumni on the world of podiatry. I will never forget the kindness that you have shown to help those in need. I aspire to help those in need in the future as well.”

- Adelbert Wang, DPM 2024
Recipient of the Katrina Di Pasqua Scholarship

”

THANK YOU
to the Donors Who Joined
GIVE
SMU
DAYS

2024!



During Give SMU Days, our alumni and community make a collective impact on our students. In honor of our fourth year of unity in supporting SMU students, we are celebrating our supporters' participation in 2024. Thank you for making a difference — every contribution counts!



50%+

increase in donations
from 2023 to 2024



135

gifts



\$38,000

matched & awarded from
donor-sponsored challenges

“

The impact of your generosity is especially evident in the achievements of our graduates who continue to demonstrate extraordinary talent and accomplishments.

- Dr. Ching-Hua Wang, President

”

Thank You to Our 2024 Employee Donors!

Your generosity as an SMU employee changes students' lives, just as your time and expertise prepares them for their futures.



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Recognizing the 2024 SMU Donors

Thank you for transforming healthcare!

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“

My decision to pursue a career in healthcare is driven by a profound sense of purpose, personal experiences, and a commitment to advocating for the vulnerable. I am truly grateful for the opportunity to pursue my dreams and make a lasting impact in the world of nursing. The Providence Alumni Scholarship has allowed me to embrace the power of education and change my life, and for that reason I will always be grateful.

- Brianne Kercheval, BSN 2025

”



Recognizing the 2024 SMU Donors

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“

I am a single mother of two furthering my education. I send my deepest gratitude for this scholarship which provides me the resources to reach my goals.

- BS Nursing 2024 Scholarship Recipient

”

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“

Receiving the Dean's Scholarship of Podiatry for the 2024–2025 school year has been a transformative milestone in my journey toward becoming a podiatric surgeon. It has not only alleviated the financial burden but has also reaffirmed my commitment to providing compassionate care for underserved communities, inspiring me to continue pursuing excellence in my field.

- Nicholas Vang, DPM 2027

”

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Lisa Zuffi *

“

Recently, I received the CSPM Alumni and Associates Scholarship. Though I am only a second-year podiatric medical student, I have been so impacted by the love and support from our donors as they inspire us through their work in the field, and also assist us financially knowing the sacrifice and demand of medical school training. I am so grateful to our alumni and donors for their continued support!

- Susanna Oppong, DPM 2027

”



Nursing Students Supported by Barbera Scholarship Endowment

Dolores Barbera always wanted to be a nurse, but she couldn't attend nursing school as she had to work.

To help future aspiring nurses realize their dreams, Dolores established the Dolores V. Barbera Endowed Nursing Scholarship in 2003 through her estate plans, supporting students in perpetuity.

Charla McPherson-Wallace, BSN 2006, received the Barbera Scholarship almost 20 years ago. Since graduating, she has proudly used her skills to help babies, children, youth, and their families in NICUs and Kaiser Permanente's pediatric subspecialty unit. She currently works in burn and wound care nursing and instructs Dominican University students as an adjunct clinical instructor. Since it was created, the Barbera Scholarship fund has more than doubled in size, and **a total of 154 students have received scholarships so far.**

Charla remains grateful "for the opportunity to go back to school and for the people who supported me along the way."

We, too, remain grateful for Dolores's thoughtful gift through her estate plans along with every scholarship contribution — each representing the many ways that individuals can support SMU.



Dolores V. Barbera, benefactor of a nursing scholarship that has supported 154 students.



Charla McPherson-Wallace was inspired by her mother and sister, both nurses, and dedicated her education to her grandmother.

“

It was a challenge to balance my studies with being a married mom of three young kids, but I was motivated to get it done and help my family.

- Charla McPherson-Wallace, BSN 2006

”

THIS YEAR, SMU CELEBRATES 115 YEARS



— THANKS TO
DONORS LIKE YOU!

Over the past century, the investments of our alumni and our community have added up to advance healthcare and health education.

College of Health Sciences alumni continue to make a difference for our community, just as our community has invested in their education over the years. Programs like the Doctor of Physical Therapy enjoy a 98% graduation rate thanks to our personalized education that helps ensure that our students graduate on time and prepared to start their careers.



Providence Hospital School of Nursing alumni joined SMU in 1992, but both were established separately in the early 1900s. Each year, SMU graduates over 1,000 nurses with an impressive 100% job placement rate.



Founded in 1914 as the California School of Chiropody and known for decades as the California College of Podiatric Medicine, SMU's College of Podiatric Medicine celebrated its 110th anniversary in 2024. One of the first five podiatric colleges in the U.S., the College has seen incredible advances in medicine and technology over the years.





“

Your support has directly contributed to:

- **Empowering Students:** Providing scholarships and financial aid to deserving students.
- **Impacting Communities:** Funding projects that foster local partnerships, improving access to care, and creating lasting solutions to address community needs.
- **Enhancing Facilities:** Building our new campus in downtown Oakland and updating our existing facilities to create a world-class learning environment.

*- Dr. Ching-Hua Wang,
President*

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