

FOUNDATION

2014-15 ANNUAL REPORT



FLORIDA

POLYTECHNIC
UNIVERSITY

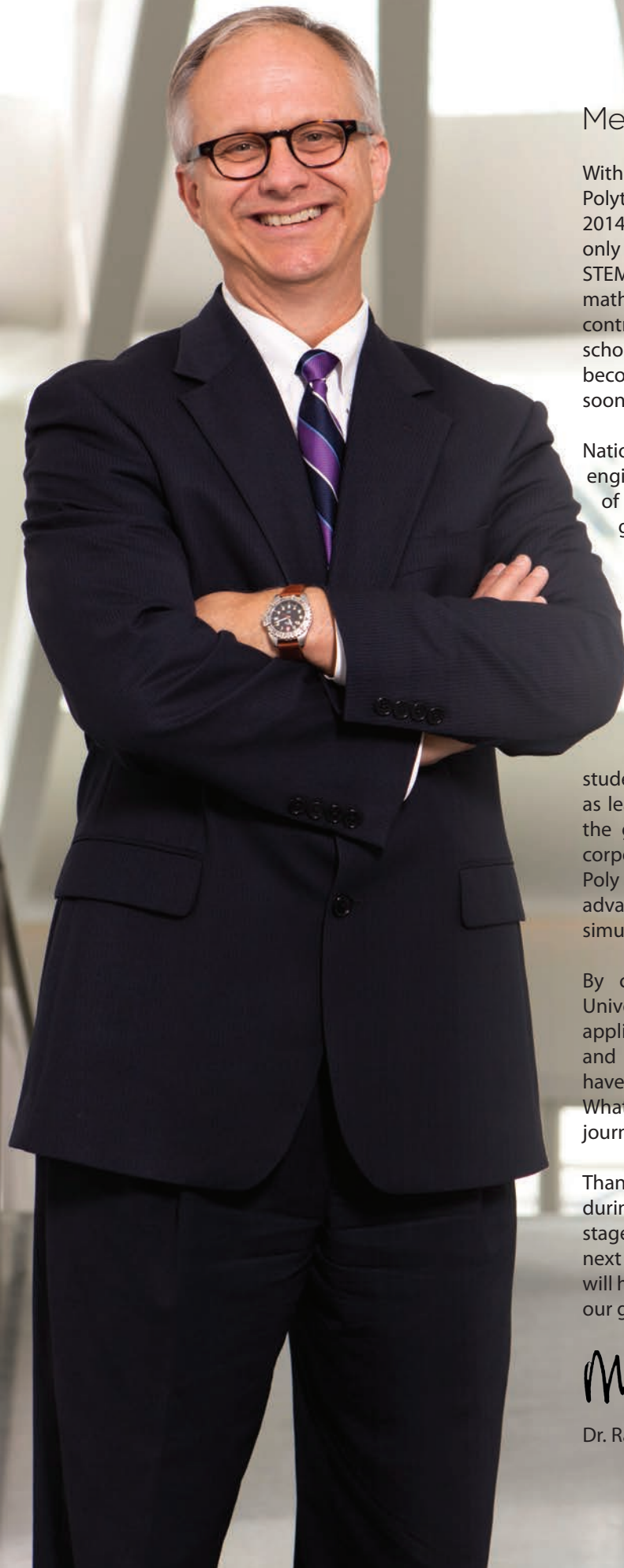
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Message from the President

With the unwavering support of donors, Florida Polytechnic University opened its doors in 2014 and made history as the state's first and only public university wholly dedicated to STEM – science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Thanks to the generosity of our contributors, more than 550 students received scholarships to join our inaugural class and become Florida Poly's first young leaders and soon-to-be graduates.

Nationwide, the fields of technology and engineering are becoming the richest sources of employment and economic growth. The goal of Florida Polytechnic University is to produce graduates in these fields who are prepared to fill high-tech positions in Florida or start their own companies in the fast-growing technology marketplace.

In this report, we profile four Florida Poly students who share their stories of vision, hard work and innovation, students who are already achieving success as leaders and problem solvers. We also honor the generosity of individual contributors and corporate donors whose commitment to Florida Poly is enabling students, faculty and staff to advance both technology and higher education simultaneously.

By contributing to the Florida Polytechnic University Foundation, donors help to support applied research, advance campus development and provide scholarships to students who have the vision and drive to change the world. What's more, they ensure those world-changing journeys are rooted here in Florida.

Thank you to the donors who have been pivotal during Florida Polytechnic University's earliest stages and to those who will help us grow to the next level. Because of you, Florida Poly students will have a future at the leading edge, and so will our great state.

Dr. Randy K. Avent

#BePIVOTAL

A woman with brown hair tied back, wearing safety glasses and a purple lab coat, is working in a laboratory. She is looking down at something inside a biosafety cabinet. The background is slightly blurred, showing laboratory equipment. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

Speak Softly
and
**CARRY A
BIG DREAM**



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"When I saw that Florida Poly offered nanotechnology and a full scholarship, I was pretty much sold."

- Aubury Erickson, Sophomore
Mechanical & Industrial Engineering
.....

Aubury Erickson relished the Calculus and Physics courses that often challenge first-year students to the extreme. Her favorite freshman class was Unique Nanoscale Phenomena for the hands-on experience of synthesizing nanoparticles in the lab to show the effects learned in class lectures.

In addition, her class project for harvesting energy using a hiking shoe has received a provisional U.S. patent. "Basically the hiker walks to create kinetic energy. It's enough to charge your cell phone in an emergency," she explained.

As a sophomore, Aubury serves as a Presidential Ambassador, a role reserved for a select group of students to represent the University and President Dr. Randy K. Avent at special events. She is also involved in the Women in STEM Leadership Program, a campus networking alliance.

Aubury's intelligence and curiosity make her a natural fit at Florida Poly, yet her path to higher education was hardly assured in 2014, as she prepared to graduate from the International Baccalaureate program at Haines City High School.

She originally hoped to join the Air Force, but a diagnosis of Hodgkin's Lymphoma at age 16 ended that plan. She underwent chemotherapy as an 11th-grader, completing her coursework at home. Today her cancer is in complete remission.

"Having cancer taught me how to appreciate every moment," she said.

Aubury applied to several colleges, but only Florida Poly offered a concentration in her field of choice – nanotechnology. "When I saw that Florida Poly offered nanotechnology and a full scholarship, I was pretty much sold," she said.

At 19, Aubury has a quiet determination that underscores her talents and abilities. She plans to earn a Ph.D. and dedicate herself to global causes. Her interests extend from space exploration to threatened honeybees.

"I would just like to say thank you to the Foundation. They have seriously changed a lot of lives and a lot of futures," she said. "Each student will graduate with the education and skills to change the world."

A Head for Math, **A HEART FOR PROBLEM- SOLVING**



James Nance has always been a math whiz kid, and that image suits him just fine. He conquered freshman college Calculus in high school. His score for the ACT college entrance exam was nearly perfect.

At Florida Poly, his passion for math makes him a go-to peer tutor at the Academic Success Center when fellow students need help with Calculus and subjects that require a firm grounding in math calculations and concepts.

"James Nance combines tenacity and kindness with ingenuity to be a highly effective student leader," noted Library Services Director Dr. Kathryn Miller, who oversees the Academic Success Center. "In his role as a peer tutor, James has helped students succeed both in and beyond the classroom."

James is a Mechanical & Industrial Engineering major with a concentration in Nanotechnology. After graduation, he hopes to earn his master's degree and Ph.D. with an eye toward a career in biomedical research.

James' own experience watching his father struggle with a genetic heart condition helped to shape his career interest. His father's heart condition has led to surgeries and a limited ability to work or live a full life.

Yet James envisions applying nanotechnology as a novel solution in biomedicine. "It is an emerging field that creates a lot of opportunity for innovation," he said.

The 2014-2015 inaugural scholarship helped to convince him to pick Florida Poly, when he was considering larger universities. "My father has major medical bills," he said. "This definitely eases the burden and takes one worry away."

James noted that the small student body and small class sizes have enabled him to develop friendships that he hopes will last a lifetime. He has gotten to work alongside faculty on projects, such as



"This was an opportunity in research I would not have had as a freshman at another institution."

- James Nance, Freshman Mechanical & Industrial Engineering

researching a paper on infusing paint with nanoparticles as an insulator for buildings. "This was an opportunity I would not have had as a freshman at another institution," he said.

At Florida Poly, James has emerged as a student leader. He was invited to speak at the Foundation's inaugural scholarship luncheon and at the University's second-annual Industry Partnership Summit.

Education IS A GIFT



One of the greatest gifts that Nigel Williams' mom gave her son was this simple advice: "Go to Florida Polytechnic University for a good education, and you will make the best of yourself."

She was right. Nigel has thrived at Florida Poly, even through hardship. In 2014, Nigel lost his mother in a car accident. A drunk driver hit her vehicle head-on.

It was the week before Christmas. Nigel was at a church pageant when the crash happened. "My mother was the pinnacle of our family and our community. I've tried to stay focused on that, and what she meant to me and to those around her," he said.

Nigel often recalls his mother's advice. "It was a blessing," said Nigel, a Computer Science major who completed his freshman year earning all A's, except for two B's.

At Florida Poly, Nigel has found a second home. He has developed his coding skills and flourished in Programming 1, a tough course for a first-year student. Nigel is taking Data Structures and Algorithms and Programming 2 as a sophomore.

In his free time, Nigel has helped develop the protocol for the Cyber Gaming & Digital Media Lab. He also plays the clarinet in the Florida Poly Music Association. A career goal is to launch a Christian-themed video gaming company.

"Nigel is the type of student Florida Poly must attract to reach the standards we all hope to achieve," said Dr. Athanasios Gentimis, assistant professor of Mathematics and Analytics.

"He is an exceptional, multitalented student who is cooperative, friendly, eager to learn and share his knowledge. He gives a lot back to this University," said Dr. Gentimis.

Nigel said he feels extremely fortunate for his education and experience at Florida Poly. "The Inaugural Class scholarship has meant a great deal to me and to my grandmother," he said. "It has eased the burden of financing college."

Nigel's mother is never far from his thoughts. "My mother considered school to be an amazing accomplishment and a way to succeed in life," he said. "I am profoundly grateful for this opportunity."

“He is an exceptional, multitalented student who is cooperative, friendly, eager to learn and share his knowledge. He gives a lot back to this University.”

**- Dr. Athanasios Gentimis
Assistant Professor
Mathematics & Analytics**



Never Too Late to **LEARN MORE**

The economy has rebounded since Chris Westphalen lost his job in the trucking industry.

Now the 44-year-old Navy veteran has embarked on a route to a new career, as a Mechanical & Industrial Engineering major at Florida Polytechnic University. The full-tuition scholarship for the Inaugural Class enables him to attend the four-year University full time.

"If it wasn't for the Florida Poly scholarship, I definitely would not be studying here or have the ability to attend any other four-year engineering school," he said.


Chris initially started his higher education in 2013 at Valencia College in Orlando. When he heard about Florida Polytechnic

University and its STEM focus, Chris took notice. When he learned about the Inaugural Class scholarships, he and his wife decided he should take the chance and apply.

As a Navy veteran attending a state college, transferring to Florida Poly proved to be the easy part. Carrying a full class load while working to support his family is a constant challenge. "Trying to do something as rigorous as engineering and work 20 to 30 hours a week is hard, but I'm up for it," said Chris, who works at Lowe's and at Florida Poly, in addition to attending the University full time. His wife, Tamara, also works full time.

"Yes, things are more difficult. But as a family, we're excited and proud and looking forward to graduation day," Tamara





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“My oldest son wants to study engineering like his dad, and my younger boy is into video gaming. Both want to go to Florida Poly.”

- Tamara Westphalen, Chris' wife

.....

said, noting that their sons think it is cool that Dad goes to Florida Poly. “My oldest son wants to study engineering like his dad, and my younger boy is into video gaming,” she said. “And both want to go to Florida Poly.”

Chris is singularly focused on the future. His know-how and self-discipline benefit the University. “Chris is dedicated, hardworking, responsive and provides mentorship to other students,” said Sean Malott, Director of Industry Partnerships.

Chris organized the Florida Poly student chapter of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) and serves as chairman. He sees the industry group as key to job networking. He also received an ASME Auxiliary Scholarship for 2015-16.

Chris helped to lead student participation in ASME’s Human Powered Vehicle Challenge. Chris showed fellow students

how to weld and fabricate. Since then, he has been helping the University set up a campus machine shop and prototype lab for students and faculty to use.

Twenty years ago – before many of his classmates were born – Chris was a welder/fabricator in a race car shop. As a Navy machinist mate, he was trained to repair steam-powered ships and nuclear submarines.

Chris considers his good fortune and the possibilities unfolding for him and his family. “This means everything to me,” he said. “If not for the tuition scholarship, I would not be here.

“Going to college for an engineering degree has been something I’ve wanted to do for 25-plus years. Now I get the chance to do it.”



07.07 2014

First President

Dr. Randy K. Avent begins his first day as the first president of Florida Polytechnic University.



08.25 2014

First Day Of Class

The state's newest university opens its doors to the Inaugural Class of more than 550 freshman, transfer and graduate students.



08.13 2014

Supercomputer & Student Data Center

Florida Polytechnic University, Flagship Solutions Group and IBM announce the opening of the Supercomputing Center.



07.23 2014

Rapid Application Development (RAD) MakerSpace Lab

The University partners with MakerBot to open a 3D printing and scanning MakerSpace and innovation center.



08.16 2014

LAUNCH Celebration

Florida Poly opens with an official LAUNCH celebration, commemorating the grand opening and completion of the iconic Innovation, Science and Technology (IST) Building.

06.00 2014

\$1 Million Pledge \$2 Million Challenge

Saddle Creek Logistics Services pledges \$1 million. An anonymous donor offers a \$2 million challenge match.

08.15 2014

PIVOT

PIVOT, the inaugural philanthropic event to support scholarships and the University's mission helped the Foundation raise \$3.6 million.

02.12 2014

Microsoft Partners With Florida Poly

Florida Polytechnic University announces that it has signed Microsoft to its growing list of industry partners.



Year in Review



03.19 2015 Approval To Build Phase II Residence Hall

The University receives approval to build a second residence hall (543 beds) with Jacksonville-based Vestcor Communities, Inc.



04.22 2015 Mascot Reveal

The Phoenix is named Florida Poly's official mascot. The concept was developed and voted on by students in the inaugural class.



04.22 2015 Inaugural Scholarship Luncheon

The Foundation hosts the Inaugural Scholarship Luncheon to recognize donors, which is sponsored by Prestige WorldWide.

02.13 2015 The Mosaic Café Opens

The Mosaic Café officially opens at Florida Polytechnic University, thanks to a naming gift from The Mosaic Company.

04.15 2015 2nd Annual Industry Partner Summit

Second annual Industry Partner Summit brings together leading minds in high technology to discuss opportunities for collaboration.

02.23 2015 SGA Signs the Founding Constitution

The Student Government Association signs its founding Constitution.



Many Leaders, A SINGLE VISION

If there were mountains in Florida, the Florida Poly Fellows most certainly would move them for Florida Polytechnic University. The shared vision, passion and dedication of the Florida Poly Fellows – the Foundation’s leading boosters – cannot be over-stated.

Florida Poly Fellows, a diverse and growing group of business and community leaders, support and strengthen the Foundation’s mission in a multitude of ways. And, as the new University grows, the Florida Poly Fellows are more important than ever in supporting scholarships and the University’s project-based, hands-on approach to a STEM education.

“Florida Poly Fellows represent almost every industry, all with the common goal of pooling their resources and knowledge to advance the goals of the University and serve as a united positive voice of support,” said Florida Poly Fellow Lauren O. Schwenk, Managing Partner of Magnolia Investments and Owner of Creative Association Services, Inc.

“The support elevates the whole community,” she said. “Education is the one thing that not only changes the life of the person receiving it but also the lives of the people around them forever.”

Supporting Florida Poly is an investment in the future of Central Florida and its economy, says Florida Poly Fellow, G. Conley Thornhill, Vice President of The Thornhill Wealth Management Group. “Florida Poly will really put Polk County on a global stage in the information economy, with far reaching implications,” he said.

On a more personal level, he adds: “Polk County has been wonderful to my family, so I feel strongly about giving back. I am proud to be part of the team.”

Vic Story Jr., president of The Story Companies, Foundation Board member and Florida Poly Fellow, shares those values. He offers a clear vision of his giving priorities. “Those who are blessed are obligated to give back in resources and/or in their talents, I believe. I give to my church first. Second, I try to give to causes that benefit people directly. Florida Poly is an example of that.”

“The economic impact of a successful university in Central Florida cannot be overemphasized,” he added.

Poly Fellow Alice Hunt, who co-owns Hunt Construction of Central Florida, predicts that the impact will be “astounding.” “It is not hard to imagine growth as it has happened around other recent universities to occur here as well,” she said.

Hunt added that it has been key for community stakeholders to “join forces and join finances” to move Florida Poly forward.



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.....

- Florida Poly Fellow
Lauren O. Schwenk
Managing Partner of Magnolia
Investments & Owner of
Creative Association Services, Inc.



S SaddleCreek LOGISTICS SERVICES



Delivering DREAMS

It took vision and leadership to grow Saddle Creek Logistics from a single-warehouse company in Lakeland to one of the largest family-owned third-party logistics providers in the nation.

A half-century since its founding, Saddle Creek Logistics is now applying that same level of leadership to help Florida Polytechnic University grow into a powerful educational resource and research institution that benefits Polk County, the state of Florida and the nation.

“As a company, we have always been entrepreneurial in nature, so it is only fitting that we would get involved at the ground floor.”

- Cliff Otto, Saddle Creek, CEO & Foundation Board Member

In 2014, the company pledged \$1 million to the new STEM University during the early phase of operations. That substantial gift has helped to support scholarships and the University's innovative mission. Close ties with businesses such as Saddle Creek Logistics have been key to the University's development.

“We see our investment in the initial startup of the University as an investment in the future. As a company, we have always been entrepreneurial in nature, so it is only fitting that we would get involved at the ground floor,” said Cliff Otto, Chief Executive Officer of Saddle Creek and a University Foundation Board Member.

“Our esteemed late company founder, David Lyons, firmly believed in being part of one's community and trying to make it better. It is our hope that the University scholarships that our pledge supports will allow more students to attend the University and gain a great education, so that they, in turn, will make Florida an even better place to be,” he said.

“Florida Poly promises to draw high-caliber students and leading-edge researchers from around the world. Cultivating that kind of high-tech talent will naturally help to raise the state's visibility as a home to innovation and strengthen the economy in the process.”

(Pictured on left page) Scott Thornton, Vice President and Shareholder; Cliff Otto, CEO; Tom Lyons, Vice President and Shareholder

Saddle Creek early on recognized the importance of Florida Poly as an industry-centered public university that will produce highly employable STEM graduates. “As a company, we share Florida Poly's commitment to innovation, and we appreciate the University's focus on applying research and creativity to real-world challenges,” he said.

Advances in STEM enabled Saddle Creek to transform into a leading national provider of logistics services and solutions. He sees that influence only growing. “With its focus on innovation and problem solving, STEM can help to prepare tomorrow's logistics and supply chain professionals to be dynamic leaders who can help to shape the future of the industry,” he said.

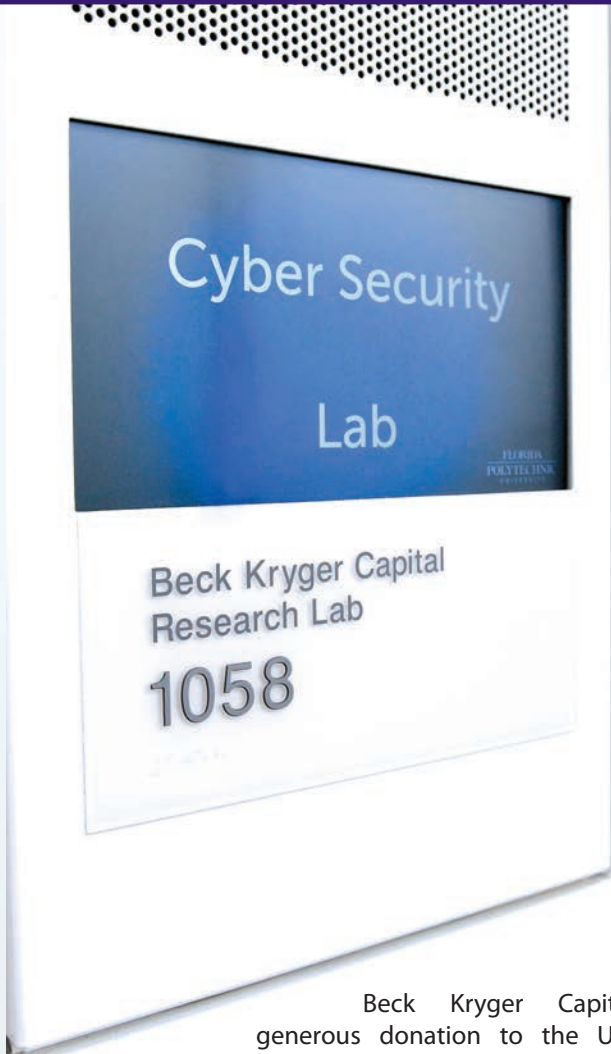
Philanthropic support of the University and the commitment from donors are key to future success.

“Significant financial commitment is required to provide the resources necessary to deliver on the University's vision,” he noted. “With support from dedicated donors in the next 10 to 20 years, Florida Poly should become well established as a ‘University of Innovation’ and attract the best and brightest students from all over the world.”





Cyber Security
Lab
Beck Kryger Capital
Research Lab
1058



Innovation is a **CAPITAL IDEA**

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“Cybersecurity is a fast-growing field, and our firm is honored to help Florida Poly meet the demand for highly qualified cyber security experts.”

**- President Wesley Beck
Beck Kryger Capital Partners**

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Beck Kryger Capital Partners' generous donation to the University has ensured its place in Florida Poly history for years to come.

Beck Kryger Capital Partners designated a significant gift in 2014-15 to name one of the University's innovation labs for education and research. The Cyber Security Lab is housed in the newly named Beck Kryger Capital Partners Research Lab focusing on hands-on research and problem-solving in areas of cyber security, cyber threats and cyber terrorism.

“Cyber security is a fast-growing field, and our firm is honored to help Florida Poly meet the demand for highly qualified cyber security experts,” said Beck Kryger Capital Partners President Wesley Beck. “Through the type of hands-on learning that will take place in this new lab, these students will be prepared for the challenges they will face in the real world.”

Beck Kryger's gift is just the latest example of a naming commitment by a major firm that is helping to support Florida Poly and its focus on growing the future economy through STEM higher education, research and industry collaborations.

Other naming gifts include:

- **Duke Energy Collaboration Room**
- **Kincart Family Collaboration Room**
- **WellDyne Collaboration Room**
- **The Mosaic Café**

The naming gifts help to further the mission of innovation and advanced technology at Florida Poly. They also serve as highly visible recognition of philanthropy's critical role in higher education today.

When a classroom, meeting room or entire building is named after a donor, the act of giving and the donor's influence are commemorated for generations to come. For example, the Beck Kryger Capital Partners Research Lab – provides a hands-on learning experience for students studying the high-tech art of thwarting and preventing cyber attacks.

Located on the ground floor of the iconic Innovation, Science and Technology Building, the lab is a futuristic computer network of servers and end-user workstations that replicate real-world cyber security threats and hacker techniques. Computer security experts are in high demand to protect institutional data from attack, keep sensitive data confidential and establish systems protocols that comply with policies and regulations.

“This is an incredible, high-tech facility that allows our students to learn and develop the skills necessary to solve today's cyber security challenges,” said University President Dr. Randy K. Avent. “The Beck Kryger Research Lab is a fantastic addition to campus and we're very grateful to the Beck and Kryger families for their generous support of our students and Florida Poly's educational mission.”

FOUNDATION BOARD

Message from the Chair

Your support of the Foundation during the inaugural year supplied the necessary institutional momentum for our young University to become a magnet for leading minds and innovative scholars. I am grateful for your commitment to and endorsement of the vision of Florida Polytechnic University through your generous giving. Thank you.

Your philanthropic support allowed more than 500 students to learn in a culture of interdisciplinary collaboration focused on engineering, technology and applied research. Every gift helped foster a lasting legacy of access for students and academic excellence for our growing institution. We are pleased to highlight four Florida Poly students from the Inaugural Class who share their personal stories of hard work, perseverance and passion for STEM achievement. You made possible life changing opportunities for these students and their classmates.

I also want to acknowledge the Florida Polytechnic Foundation Board. They were committed to not only fostering Florida Poly's vision but also to providing scholarship for every student who walked through the doors the first year. Each member enthusiastically stepped forward to move a new university into the future.

In just a few short months, I hope you will join us as our first class walks across the graduation stage. Your gifts have provided these, and many more, students with the opportunity to become skilled workers, integrative problem solvers and well-balanced leaders.

There is no better time to support Florida Polytechnic University. I hope you will continue to be with us on this remarkable journey.



Cindy Alexander, Foundation Board Chair 2013-2015

2014-2015 FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Cindy Alexander, Foundation Chair & Community Leader

Ralph Allen, Chairman, Allen & Company

Ron Clark, Partner, Clark, Campbell, Lancaster & Munson, PA

Jeff Clyne, President, Mid-State Machine & Fabricating Corp.

Gregory Fancelli, Owner, Prestige Worldwide

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Ingram Leedy, President, Protected Trust

David Mann, Executive VP, Group Executive Regional Commercial Real Estate, SunTrust Bank

Phil Mowry, Vice President and Chief Legal Officer, WellDyne

Cliff Otto, President, Saddle Creek Logistics Services

Blake Paul, Attorney, Peterson & Myers, PA

Dr. Sijo Parekattil, Robotics Surgeon, The PUR Clinic

Shelley Robinson, Community Leader

Loretta Sanders, Foundation Vice-Chair & Community Leader

Vic Story Jr., President, The Story Companies

Seretha S. Tinsley, Community Leader & Co-Owner, Pen Geo, Inc.

Dr. Michael Tolentino, Director & Founder of Clinical Research, Center for Retina & Macular Disease





Pictured Left to Right (Back row):
Ford Heacock, Vic Story, Cliff Otto, Ralph Allen, Rob Kincart, Blake Paul, Dr. Sijo Parekattil

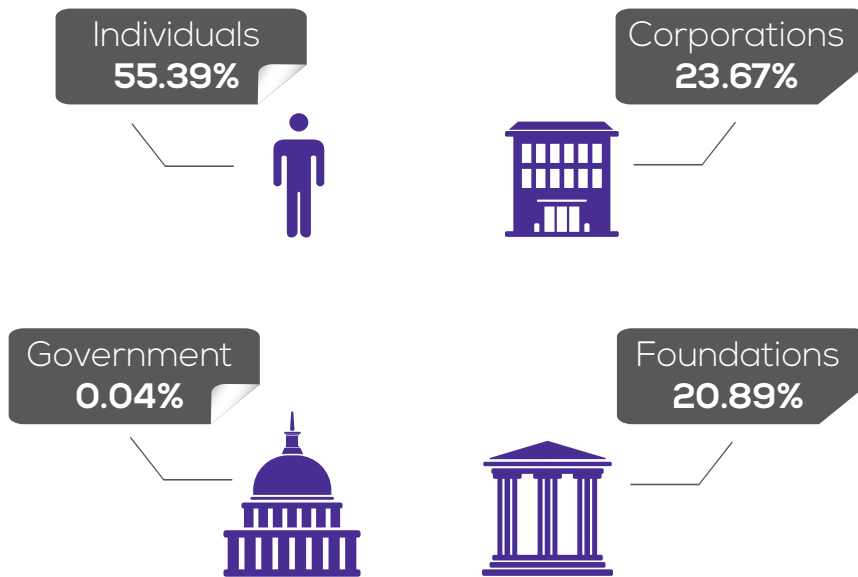
Pictured Left to Right (Front row):
Cindy Alexander, Loretta Sanders

Not Pictured:
Ron Clark, Jeff Clyne, Gregory Fancelli, Ingram Leedy, David Mann,
Phil Mowry, Shelley Robinson, Seretha S. Tinsley, Dr. Michael Tolentino

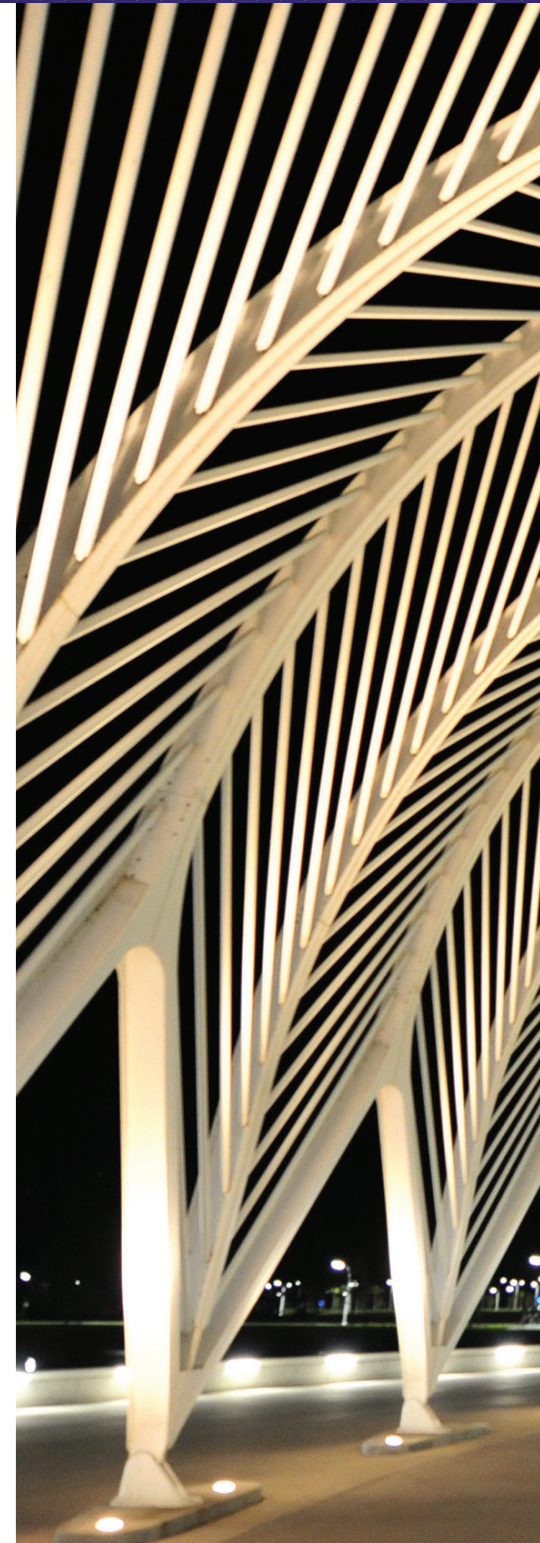
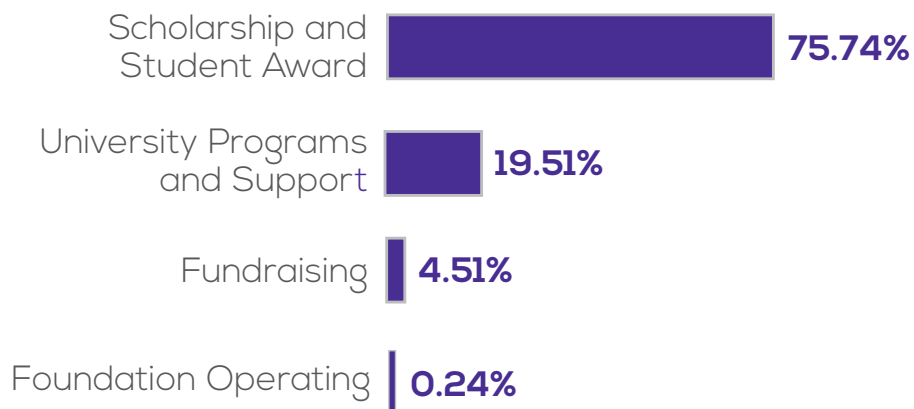
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2014-2015 FINANCIALS

INCOME



EXPENSES



Why not **BE PIVOTAL** in the
life of a future innovator?

Visit **BEPIVOTAL.org** to
learn more. #BePIVOTAL

Here are some ways you can **BE PIVOTAL** in shaping Florida Poly and its future innovators:

Give

Contributors can support Florida Polytechnic University through:

- Scholarship contributions to undergraduate and graduate STEM students
- General contributions to support educational initiatives, special projects and growth
- Become a contributing member of the Florida Poly Fellows

Recognition for contributions may include naming opportunities on campus, named scholarships funds and event sponsorships.

The Florida Polytechnic University Foundation is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization established to help sustain the educational mission of Florida Polytechnic University and its innovative vision. The Foundation's sole purpose is to build the assets necessary for the University to achieve its goal of becoming a world-renowned "University of Innovation," one that will produce the next generation of entrepreneurs and high-tech leaders to advance our economy and society.

At Florida Polytechnic University, a student's financial means should not dictate his or her educational opportunity. Your generosity will help ensure driven, intelligent students realize their full potential. Even the smallest contribution can mean the difference between a dream realized and a dream deferred.

Be pivotal through giving opportunities, such as scholarship gifts, naming opportunities and general support. For more information about naming opportunities and individually named funds within the Florida Polytechnic University Foundation, please contact the Advancement Office at 863.874.8731.

Bring an innovative vision to life today. To contribute online visit BePivotal.com. You may also donate by check. Make checks payable to Florida Polytechnic University Foundation, and mail to the Foundation at P.O. Box 2790, Lakeland, FL 33806.

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A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Florida Division of Consumer Services by calling toll-free within the state 1-800-435-7352 or visit www.freshfromflorida.com. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval, or recommendation by the state.

FLORIDA

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