



**FOUNDATION**  
2015-2016 ANNUAL REPORT

# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

*Florida Poly is driven by grit and determination.*

It's the secret ingredient, so to speak, that's propelling our new University into position as an innovative leader in the study of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). It's also how we've built a modern and progressive campus, curriculum and culture from scratch in just two years. Consider that we wrapped up our second academic year offering 86 courses with 195 sections in Spring 2016. Classes started in Fall 2016 with more than 500 freshmen, out of a total class of more than 1,300.

This doesn't happen by accident. It takes bold vision and a clear grasp of a University's potential. The leadership of Florida Poly is projecting years ahead and looking at what this young school can be, not just its current state. We see a nationally recognized University spoken in the same breath as established STEM leaders. It's possible and it will happen.

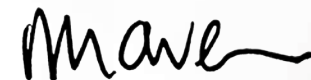
Lofty goals are all talk without hard work. This past year we rolled up our sleeves and began setting in place the foundation for our vision. Graduating work-ready students takes a village, and a big part of that group effort happens in student-led clubs and organizations. This is where big ideas incubate and lifelong friendships form. We also welcomed two professional organizations to campus, both of which will fortify any resume: the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) and the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE).

Our student body is obviously critical to our success and its growth is key to our strategic plan. Completion of our second dormitory this past year accommodates that vision by doubling our housing capacity. On the horizon, we have the development of a new Applied Research Center, for which we received a \$5 million appropriation from the State Legislature and will need to match \$5 million in funding. This center will be a powerful tool for recruiting faculty and fostering the type of groundbreaking research that is a cornerstone of Florida Poly. It will also be a magnet for business-minded students seeking to commercialize innovation as they study at the center's Institute for Technology Entrepreneurship.

It's not all work at Florida Poly. This past year we expanded our Health and Wellness Center and opened new recreation fields for basketball and other sports. Phase II of our Wellness Center - an all-new facility - is scheduled for completion in 2017.

When you ride the cutting edge, there will always be challenges. But we have faith in our tenacity and vision. This drive to succeed has served us well to date and it will continue to sustain us moving forward. We invite you to team up with us and see what our grit and tenacity is all about. It's an experience you don't want to miss.

Sincerely,

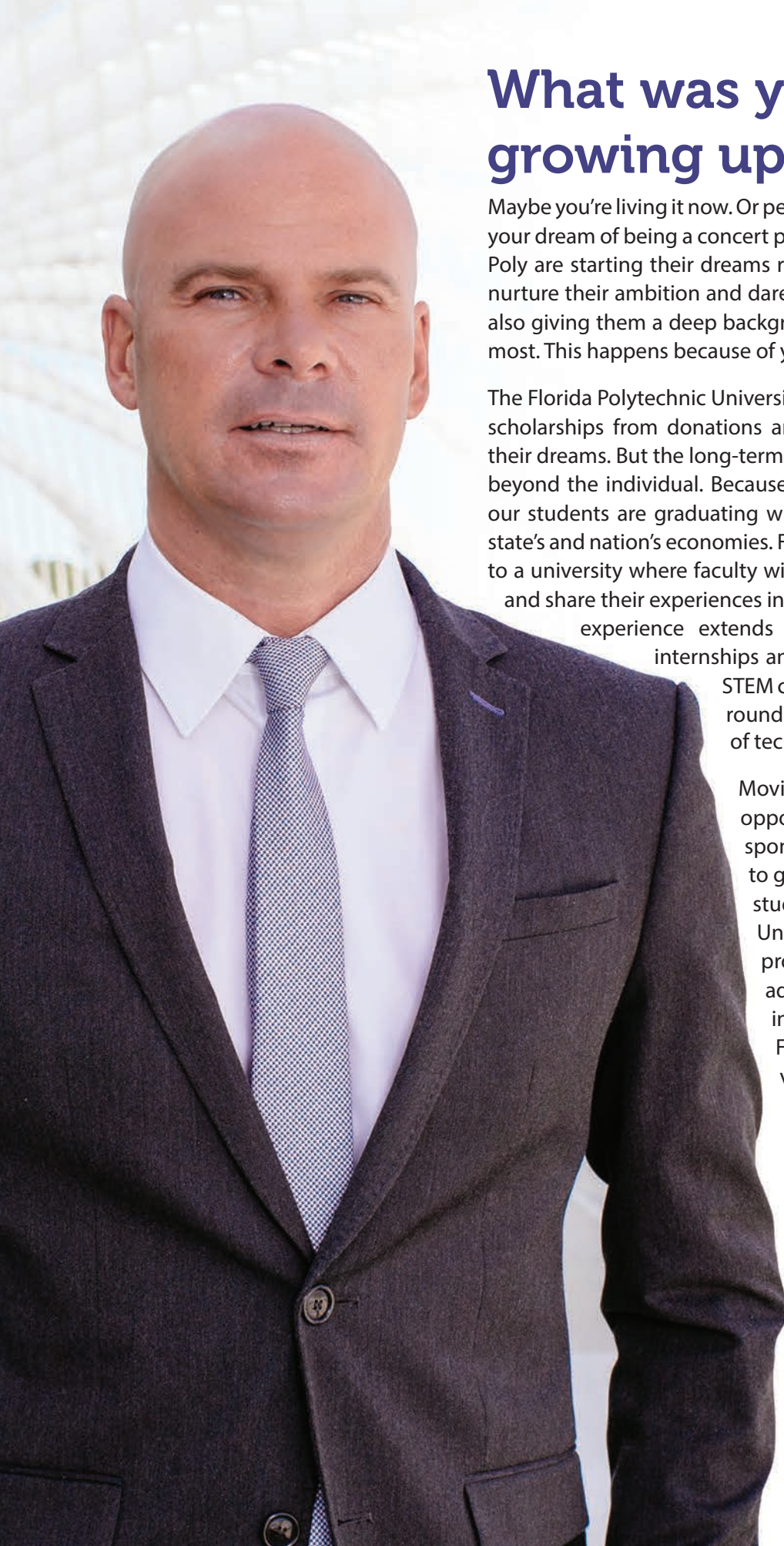


Dr. Randy K. Avent  
President

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## What was your big dream growing up?

Maybe you're living it now. Or perhaps you wish you had a do-over to pursue your dream of being a concert pianist, CEO or astronaut. Students at Florida Poly are starting their dreams right now. They found a university that will nurture their ambition and dare them to make the impossible happen. It's also giving them a deep background in the STEM fields that interest them most. This happens because of your generosity.

The Florida Polytechnic University Foundation was created to form scholarships from donations and give students opportunities to pursue their dreams. But the long-term impact of your donation extends far beyond the individual. Because Florida Poly focuses exclusively on STEM, our students are graduating with the skills most needed to advance our state's and nation's economies. Foundation scholarships also bring students to a university where faculty with deep industry backgrounds can mentor and share their experiences in the real world with students. That business experience extends to our industry partners, who provide internships and guest lectures that prepare students for STEM careers. This holistic approach creates a well-rounded student ready to test the boundaries of technology. That benefits everyone.

Moving into 2017, our supporters will see new opportunities to build up the University. By sponsoring a faculty chair and contributing to graduate fellowships, new faculty and students can bring their talents to the University. Donations to Phoenix Funds provides flexible resources faculty and administrative leaders can use to make smart investments on promising lines of research. For a full list of opportunities, visit: [flpoly.org/foundation](http://flpoly.org/foundation).

This is an exciting time to be a part of Florida Poly and its march into the frontiers of science, technology and engineering. It is with sincere gratitude that I and the rest of the Foundation thank you for your selfless giving to make this possible.

Sincerely,

Kevin J. Aspegren  
Vice President of Advancement  
CEO, Florida Poly Foundation, Inc.



## Author Jonathan Swift once said, "Vision is the art of seeing the invisible."

For myself and other members of the Florida Polytechnic University Foundation Board, this quote perfectly summarizes why we choose to support the University. We saw its potential to fuel dreams, boost the economy and put Florida on the map as a high-tech leader. Now, with the third academic year kicking off, we are enjoying the visible. This Fall 2016 class of students is walking onto a campus that just a few years ago was an empty field. This year we've seen these gifted students begin internships and jobs in the community and apply textbook lessons in real life—exactly as we envisioned. And, by the time they graduate, Florida Poly will have undergone more substantial changes.

Amidst these changes, what will remain constant is the caliber of our students. Each student at the University brings unique strengths, gifts and talents. By offering scholarships, we have recruited bright and talented students who flourish in STEM education. Donor generosity makes this possible, and continued giving allows us to recruit more students and retain the ones already enrolled. To keep our vision alive, the Foundation must continue raising the scholarship dollars needed to meet our students' needs. The need will continue to keep pace and often exceed the University's growth. This is not a challenge we can meet alone.

I would like to sincerely thank every donor who has joined us so far. Your generosity continues to make an impact. To potential donors, thank you in advance for considering giving a portion of your time and money to Florida's newest university.

Sincerely,

Loretta Sanders  
Florida Polytechnic University Foundation Board Chair

The Florida Polytechnic University Foundation is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization that supports the University's mission and growth through donor gifts. Originally founded as a conduit for student scholarships, the Foundation is expanding its programs to include naming opportunities, research funds and professorial chair positions.

We work closely with University leadership to align our fundraising efforts with Florida Poly's future trajectory. For instance, as the University executes its building master plan, we're working alongside them to make sure those laboratories hold the most cutting-edge equipment. When the strategic plan calls for recruiting and retaining qualified faculty, the Foundation is there to create attractive research funds and fellowships.

**We hope you will consider partnering with the Foundation as we advance Florida Poly into tomorrow.**

# THE UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION BOARD



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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*Foundation Board Chair,  
Community Leader*

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*Chairman, Allen & Company*

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Macular Disease*

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*President, The Story Companies*

**STEVE WARNER**

*Vice Provost of Student Affairs,  
Florida Polytechnic University*



**Wellness Center Expansion**

**6,000**  
ADDITIONAL SQUARE FEET

**Applied Research Center  
{Coming Soon}**

**85k** SQUARE FEET  
**\$5** MILLION REQUIRED MATCH

**1**  
ENTREPRENEURSHIP CENTER

**Residence Hall II**

**135k**  
SQUARE FEET

**539**  
DOUBLE SUITES

**\$22**  
MILLION TO FINISH

**5**  
FLOORS

**Wellness Center Phase II {Coming Soon}**

**9k** SQUARE FEET  
**\$2** MILLION EST. COST

**30%**  
FOR STRENGTH TRAINING SPACE

# STRATEGIC GROWTH

## FLORIDA POLY'S LEADERSHIP HAS BIG PLANS FOR THE UNIVERSITY'S NEAR FUTURE.

Several completed projects are moving Florida Poly into a bright future. This past year saw the completion of a new dormitory, Residence Hall II. The building boasts high-speed, wireless Internet access, game rooms and double the communal space as its neighbor, Residence Hall I. The 539 rooms are built as "semi suites:" two double, furnished bedrooms and a shared common bathroom.

The Wellness Center also got a boost in size. This hub of student activity expanded over the 2016 summer and increased the size of the cafeteria. The renovations add 6,000 more square feet of space, allowing for 250 more students to enjoy the facility.

Recreation and physical activity play a big role in the health and wellness of our students' lives and the right facilities attract new students to campus. To that end, this past year featured the development of a soccer field and basketball and volleyball courts for students' enjoyment.

A new Wellness Center is also scheduled for completion in 2017. This facility, shaped like the Florida Poly Phoenix, will feature a strength training area of more than 2,700 feet, a covered outdoor rock climbing wall and multipurpose rooms for learning and meetings. The interior will also

feature applied learning spaces for students and faculty developing fitness-related technology. Outside, students will enjoy two pools, one for lap swimming and the other for activities and intramural water sports.

Florida Poly has already received a \$5 million appropriation from the State Legislature to begin development of an Applied Research Center and will be making a required \$5 million match toward that effort. This new facility, with a projected 85,000-square-foot of net space, will serve as a home to laboratories and an entrepreneurship center. University leaders place a strong emphasis on preparing students to become small business owners, and this new center will be a powerful tool toward that goal. It will also host industry research groups and national and international meetings.

# THE IMPACT OF SCHOLARSHIPS

Student loan debt has skyrocketed in recent years to an estimated \$1.3 trillion, spread out over 43 million borrowers in 2016. Today's average college graduate leaves school with \$37,172 in debt. Faced with those numbers, who wouldn't jump on every scholarship opportunity?

Ryan Anderson certainly thought so as he contemplated a career in video game development and which of the four schools that accepted him he should choose. Then he discovered Florida Poly. The University's proximity to his home in Winter Garden appealed to him, as did the cyber gaming program.

"I really enjoyed playing all these immersive stories, so I began looking for a school that would lead me into the gaming culture and industry," Ryan says.

"Florida Poly looked like a good place to do that." The real deciding factor though was the Florida Poly Foundation scholarship that allows him to study at Florida Poly debt-free. That will come in handy after graduation. Ryan dreams to eventually open his own game development studio. It will take hard work and sacrifice to get there and, by his reasoning, starting out in the hole with student debt only extends his wait time.

"The money I would spend cutting down debt can be put into equipment, renting a space or any other investments I need to make," Ryan explains. Florida Poly has helped him in other ways. By coming to a STEM school, Ryan is surrounded by students who share his passion for gaming. He's also had the opportunity to test drive a role as project manager on some cross-disciplinary collaborations. "Being in that position to direct people and find my leadership style has been great," Ryan says. "It's furthered my desire to do what I want to do."

Interested in contributing to the Florida Polytechnic University Foundation to support students like Ryan? Visit [fpoly.org/donate](http://fpoly.org/donate).

“  
If I enjoy playing {video} games so much, why don't I make them?”

## DONOR SUPPORT CULTIVATES OUR SUCCESS

Students choose Florida Polytechnic University for very specific reasons. As a new university, there's no family tradition of attending Florida Poly or major athletics programs to attract them.

No, you choose a STEM school like Florida Poly because you've always had a natural talent for understanding how things work and you want to develop that further. Donor support brings these future leaders and entrepreneurs into an environment where they can **thrive**.





### INDUSTRY PARTNERS

Strong relationships between the Florida Poly Foundation and industry partners create attractive opportunities for faculty and students. One of the ways we foster those relationships is through our annual summit. For the 2015 summit, more than 100 professionals from industry-leading firms, including Nielsen, Florida Blue, Publix, Mosaic and Saddle Creek Logistics, gathered together to gain a deeper understanding of the University from student projects and enjoy a keynote address from John Tonnison, Tech Data's executive vice president and chief information officer.



### MERIT SUMMER PROGRAM

Scholarships are a major recruiting tool for the Florida Poly Foundation, but it's also important potential students develop their interest in science. Now in its fourth year, the Medical Engineering and Robotics for Tomorrow (MERIT) program, pairs rising high school juniors and seniors with Florida Poly faculty, students and industry partners to create opportunities to interact and learn from experts and peers. The program engages students in advanced technology, medical engineering, robotics and opens up Florida Poly and Florida Poly's industry contacts to communities across Florida.



# BUILDING CONNECTIONS

*Community involvement unlocks new channels of support for the Florida Poly Foundation and showcases ways students are maximizing their time at the University because of scholarships. Here's a quick look at the past year.*

### INTERNSHIPS

Students coming to Florida Poly on scholarships can take advantage of internships offered by our industry partners. Over the course of the 2016 summer, more than 50 companies welcomed 60+ students, including Motorola, Lockheed Martin, Northrop Grumman and General Electric. Students gained valuable workplace and industry experience, while industry partners gained a workforce keen to learn and apply their innovative techniques. Seen here is Logan Chambers, an intern at Port Tampa Bay who used a strengths and materials class to determine load effects on a wharf.



### FLORIDA POLY EARTH DAY

Conservation and protecting the environment are important to our campus community, so Earth Day is a big deal on campus. This year, student-led clubs and Florida Poly's Student Government Association banded together with community partners Madrid Engineering, Lakeland Electric, Synergina, Florida Institute of Phosphate Research and Bay Mulch to collect trash and promote sustainability.

*“For us to truly be a world-class university, we need to develop and grow...relationships,” says President Dr. Randy K. Avent.*



### INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS

The chance to study abroad and collaborate with other STEM universities is one enticement the Florida Poly Foundation uses to recruit students and faculty. New agreements, signed with Morocco's Dahkla Oued Dahab region and Al Akhawayn University, and Brazil's Centro Universitario de Brusque, open up research opportunities for faculty and study abroad opportunities for students.



### PROFESSIONAL PROGRAM CHAPTERS

Your donations bring students to a university with two resume-boosting professional associations. This year Florida Poly opened chapters of both the American Society of Mechanical Engineers and Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers. These clubs produce opportunities for students to network with working engineers and tour local facilities and firms.



# BY THE NUMBERS

**987** TOTAL 2015-2016 ENROLLMENT  
**FALL 2016 ENROLLMENT 1,300+**

## TOP MAJORS:

**39%** COMPUTER SCIENCE & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
**23%** MECHANICAL & INDUSTRIAL ENGINEERING

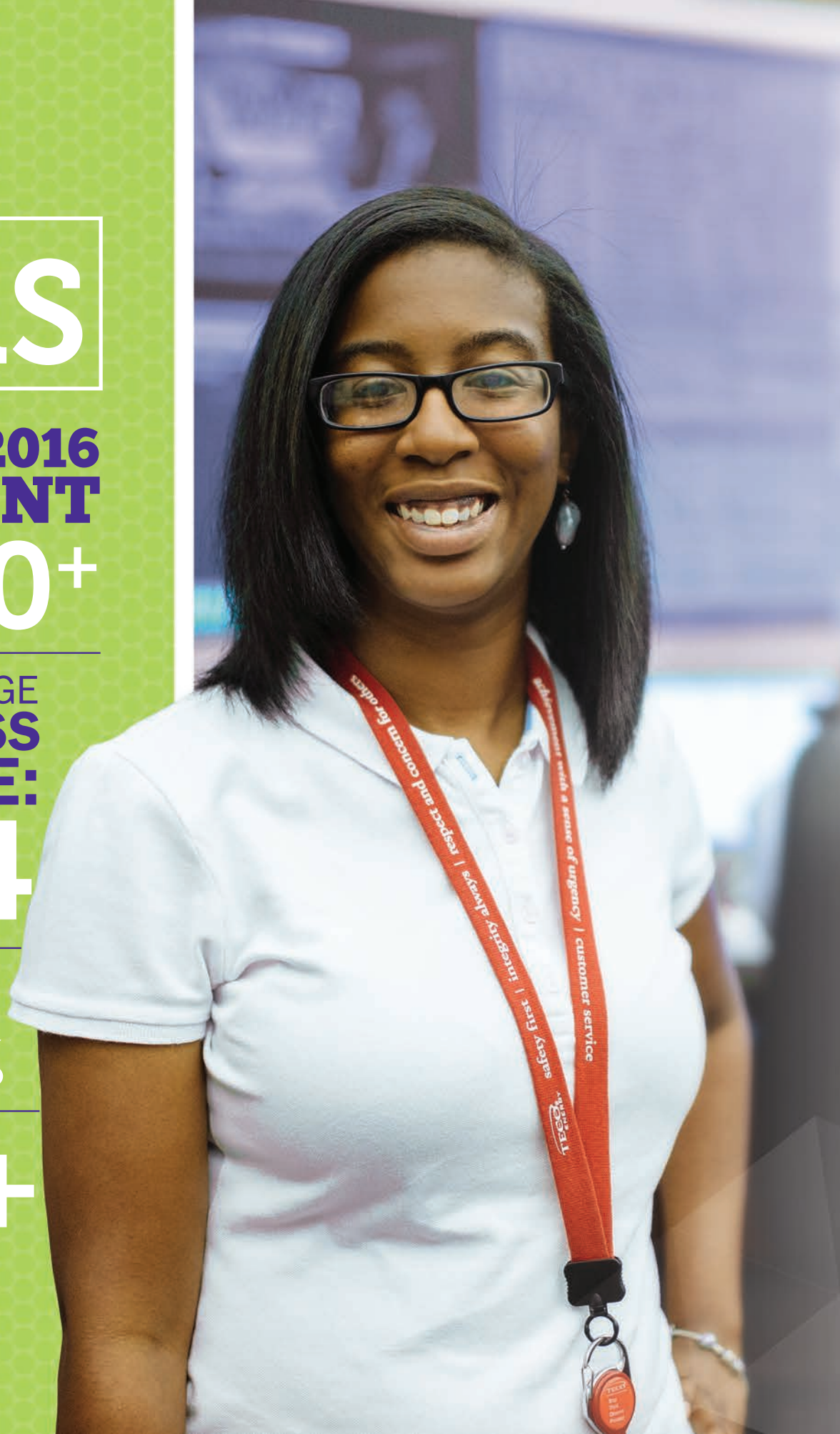
**85%** **15%**  
**GPA 3.99 SAT 1684 ACT 26**  
AVERAGES OF ACCEPTED STUDENTS

AVERAGE CLASS SIZE:  
**24**

**4 COUNTRIES REPRESENTED**  
IN THE STUDENT BODY

RETENTION RATE  
**76%**

**INTERNSHIPS 60+**  
WITH INDUSTRY LEADERS



# REAL-WORLD EXPERIENCE THAT MATTERS

*Students at Florida Poly earn more than a degree. They gain hands-on training for jobs that impact your daily life. Like the lights in your house, for instance.*

Maya Wilson knows firsthand what it takes to keep the people of Tampa Bay supplied with power. She doesn't drive a truck or climb poles, but her behind-the-scenes job at Tampa Electric Company (TECO) impacts the entire Bay Area's grid. Each time the power is restored after an outage, Maya is there to analyze the amount of time it took to get back online. The results from her analysis allow TECO to tell you when power will be restored.

It's a challenging job, but Maya says her graduate classes at Florida Poly make it easier. "I've used all kinds of knowledge like research methods and statistical analysis. Even ethics comes into play because you want to make sure you're accurate," Maya says.

Math has always been Maya's passion and she made it her major at St. Leo University. She was unsure where to go after graduation, however. A presentation from a Florida Poly admissions counselor gave her the answer: a Master's with an emphasis on Big Data Analytics. An inaugural scholarship from the Florida Poly Foundation made it possible for her to pursue that degree.

One result of the ongoing, exponential growth of technology is an overabundance of data. A big data analyst collects this data, analyzes it and proposes practical applications. It's a rapidly growing field with a high demand for qualified analysts.

Maya's overall goal with her big data job is to improve TECO's accuracy when predicting power restoration. That means looking at every power outage within a certain window and documenting factors like weather, geography and traffic that could have affected power restoration. She solves why it took just an hour to restore a seven-hour job and why a one-hour job turned into seven hours.

Taking the first step toward a rewarding career while still in college is encouraging for Maya. "I took a chance and pursued what I love. You have to step out and try," Maya says.

\*UNLESS NOTED, ALL METRICS ARE BASED ON SUMMER 2015, FALL 2015 AND SPRING 2016





SHOWN FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: CEO JACK BERLIN, VP OF ENGINEERING SUSAN GORMAN, CFO ANTHONY SANCHEZ

# FROM A PARENT'S PERSPECTIVE

Every parent wants what's best for their children. Hedi Gadelrab assumed when her son, Noah, began looking at colleges that his best fit was at one of the big-name public universities in Florida. But then Noah found Florida Poly. When he discovered the University's STEM majors, the technology available for research and the quality of the faculty, Noah was instantly hooked. His mom knew it was a perfect match, too. "He's always been hands-on and involved in technology," Hedi says.

Noah's interest in computer science started when he watched a repairman remove a virus from his laptop. By the time he was 14, he was running his own computer enterprise, complete with business cards. His client list grew to more than 150 customers, including a company in Savannah, Ga., that paid for him to fly to their headquarters and set up his network. He was 16. Florida Poly is nurturing his entrepreneurial spirit and equipping him with the knowledge he needs to thrive in the tech world after graduation. **The generosity of donors and the resulting scholarships are making that possible.**

Hedi encourages all parents to consider donating and setting more students on a path of success. "It's time to pay this forward for the next generation of students," Hedi says.

# INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIPS

Jack Berlin saw Florida's potential as a high-tech leader when he chose the Tampa Bay area 25 years ago as the home of his company, Accusoft. Now he's investing in a new player on the scene: Florida Polytechnic University.

"Florida has come a long way as a tech hub, but we still need to be competitive," Jack explains. "You need an environment that is going to nurture a talented

workforce. That's the only way we're going to keep and attract talent to the area." Accusoft, which develops software solutions for text applications, is building that environment in several ways. First, it recruits students who major in programs like Florida Poly's Computer Science & Information Technology degree. Accusoft also hosts talent development exercises to boost students' coding talents. "We've met some really bright students

who are willing to learn on the spot and embrace the challenges," says Chris Lubeck, vice president of customer satisfaction. The company also works closely with the Florida Poly Foundation to create and take advantage of opportunities to sponsor programs and students.

Putting Tampa on the same level as Silicon Valley requires a simple cycle: bring in a skilled workforce to attract big companies and introduce a big company to attract the talent. Asked why he would encourage other companies to invest in Florida Poly, Chris rephrases the question.

**YOU SHOULD REALLY ASK, 'WHY NOT INVEST IN FLORIDA POLY?'**

*This is exactly the kind of talent this company and Tampa Bay needs moving forward."*



FLORIDA POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY  
**Women in STEM**

The Florida Poly Foundation champions diversity in STEM and encourages discussions that open greater understanding of challenges faced by minorities. That was the spark behind the Women in STEM Leadership program and its annual summit. The event is a chance for women to build meaningful networks and find inspiration through storytelling and keynote speakers.

Last year's event featured nationally recognized speaker, Dr. Pamela McCauley, Director of the Ergonomics Laboratory at the University of Central Florida, who discussed key issues and challenges impacting women in STEM. All proceeds from the lunch support Florida Poly scholarships.

# THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

[FLPOLY.ORG/WIS](http://FLPOLY.ORG/WIS)



# PHILANTHROPIC FUNDRAISING

Signature events are a key component of the Florida Poly Foundation fundraising efforts. The annual highlight of these events is PIVOT, our premiere philanthropic gala to support the University's mission and student scholarships.

PIVOT brings together industry partners and university friends for an evening of celebration and wonder in the award-winning Innovation, Science and Technology Building.

[FLPOLY.ORG/PIVOT](http://FLPOLY.ORG/PIVOT)

THE PAST TWO GALAS HAVE  
**RAISED MORE THAN \$3 MILLION**  
FOR THE FLORIDA POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION.



# APPLIED RESEARCH

DEVELOPING PRODUCTS THAT WILL CHANGE THE WORLD.

*Groundbreaking research is happening at Florida Poly thanks to students who can access the University's state-of-the-art labs because of philanthropic support.*

Rabeet Fatmi, for example, is leading a project right now to convert the motions of American Sign Language into speech. When complete, the deaf and hearing impaired will be able to converse with anyone using just a pair of armbands and a smartphone.

"There are a lot of moving parts," says Rabeet, a graduate student working on the project, "But whenever we get frustrated, we just remember the big picture and how life-changing this will be. I deliberately took on a project that carries significance."

Right now the team is laying the foundation for the app using Myo Gesture Control Armbands. The bands recognize specific hand and arm movements and convert them into digital actions. So, for instance, you can wave at a computer and pause a video. At Florida Poly, students are "teaching" the armbands signs. "This is machine learning, exactly like we learn in class," Rabeet says.

Right now, Rabeet and a team of undergraduate students are working under the direction of Dr. Sherif Said Rashad,

associate professor of computer engineering. "It's a complex problem, but one we're working diligently to solve," Sherif says.

On a recent afternoon, Rabeet and the undergraduates were in an innovation lab recording motions. Each motion has to be recorded roughly 30 times, for a total of 6000 data sets. Classes like quantitative and empirical research and advanced database development help Rabeet make sense of it all. Rabeet and the undergraduate assistants also had to develop the code and create a program from scratch to collect the data. Again, classwork made that achievable.

"Florida Poly has played a big role in making this possible," Rabeet says.

Support applied research by giving today: [flpoly.org/donate](https://flpoly.org/donate).

“

*But whenever we get frustrated, we just remember the big picture and how life-changing this will be. I deliberately took on a project that carries **significance**.”*



*Florida Poly may be a new university, but it generates a lot of pride.*

Maybe it's the unforgettable first impression the Innovation, Science and Technology (IST) Building makes. Or unmistakable Florida Poly characteristics, like skateboarders whizzing past and students huddled together over a piece of equipment in the lab.

More likely it's the potential a place like Florida Poly holds. Everyone connected to the University – students, faculty, staff, parents and supporters – bleeds purple because they believe in what the University represents. This is where childhood dreams of creating the next great invention come to life. It's a launch pad for groundbreaking careers and a training ground for entrepreneurs. With that kind of potential, how could you not show Phoenix pride?

We invite potential donors to visit our campus and see firsthand what sets us apart.



# PHOENIX PRIDE

[FLPOLY.ORG/BOOKSTORE](http://FLPOLY.ORG/BOOKSTORE)

# FLORIDA POLY FACULTY

*All the high-tech equipment and laboratories in the world are worthless without skilled workers. That's where Florida Poly professors step in. Your donation connects students with faculty who hold years of industry, academic and research experience. These highly-skilled faculty members can translate the often complicated fields of STEM into understandable and relatable terms. Besides a talent for teaching, our professors bring an openness to working with students that's hard to find at bigger universities. That's the Florida Poly difference.*

Mathematics might not be as flashy as robots or virtual reality, but it's the glue that holds together all of STEM. Florida Poly students need to understand its principles to do everything from inventing the next big thing to gaining an edge over a competitor.

So it better be taught well. Dr. Jared Bunn, assistant professor of mathematics, is up to the task. "It's more than numbers," explains Dr. Bunn. "What students are learning are functions and relationships between objects." Demonstrating these practical applications, and preparing students for the math waiting for them in higher-level classes, is Dr. Bunn's full-time job at Florida Poly. And he's well suited for it. He holds a doctorate in mathematics from the University of Tennessee and experience teaching everything from Algebra to Calculus. His strength, he says, is teaching complex concepts.

"I've always had the ability to clearly explain things and identify the areas where students are struggling to learn," Dr. Bunn says. That passion for communication is

reciprocated. "Students are excited to learn here," Dr. Bunn explains. "And, often, I'm learning from them."

He recounts a student who was inspired to develop a video game idea after hearing Dr. Bunn's explanation of flux in Calculus III. Another student brought him an optical illusion based on a mathematical foundation. Dr. Bunn credits Florida Poly's strong emphasis on active learning for these interactions. "If you're just taking notes you're not actively listening," Dr. Bunn explains. "So I get feedback from my students and show them the big picture."

That ties back into the universal language of mathematics. Nanotechnology, for instance, is one of the most popular concentrations at Florida Poly. Math is what students need to develop chain reactions and predict the results of those reactions. In other disciplines, math can model and predict real-life outcomes. "Finding patterns is a big function of math," Dr. Bunn says.

Speaking of predictions, Dr. Bunn sees big things coming up for his department and Florida Poly as a whole. **"Everything is falling into place for this University," Dr. Bunn says. "It won't be long before we jump onto the national stage."**



# WHY I GIVE

*The Florida Poly Foundation Board champions the University to the larger community, grows its donor base and provides strategic direction to leadership. Each board member signed on because they see Florida Poly's potential and they work diligently to see that promise fulfilled.*

**Ford Heacock** is still surprised when he sees how far Florida Poly has come in just two years.



President & Owner,  
Heacock Insurance

"It feels like just the blink of an eye," Ford says. "We now have a real university emerging right before us." For a longtime businessman like Ford, it's Florida Poly's economic impact that he pitches the most. "Because of Florida Poly many faculty and students will choose to make this area their home," he says. **"They provide the talent base we need to attract new industries, which brings high-skill, high-wage jobs, eventually breeding more commercial real estate development and improving our local economy and tax base."** The Foundation's role in this is to steer donor dollars toward scholarships that draw students to the University. It's also allowed Florida Poly to hire some of the talent and pay for services that raise the University's public profile. Donations are a critical part of making this all happen, Ford says. Even as fast as Florida Poly grows, Ford is certain the best is yet to come. "We're just beginning to understand the potential," he says. "I think it will be a gamechanger."

**Alice Hunt**, increasing public enthusiasm for the University is easy.

"It's never difficult," Alice says. **"Everyone I deal with understands how important this University is to the community."** Alice was involved with Florida Poly before ground was even broken on the future campus. She's been advocating for education for more than 25 years, so a new University dedicated to STEM was a perfect cause for her to champion. Because she started on the ground floor of the University, she can say with confidence that the original vision for the school has remained the same. Alice places credit on a series of strong leaders at the top for this consistency. "It's such an incredible opportunity that's landed in our backyard," Alice says.



Co-Owner of  
Hunt Construction



Robotics Surgeon, The PUR Clinic

“

*I really believe Florida Poly is the future," Dr. Parekattil says. "We need this university in Central Florida."*

**Dr. Sijo Parekattil** sees tremendous potential in Florida Poly.

It's what initially attracted him to the Florida Poly Foundation Board, and the University's impressive track record to date continues to validate his belief in the school. Dr. Parekattil's background makes him a perfect fit for Florida Poly. The surgeon studied engineering before going into medicine. Today, he specializes in robotic microsurgery as co-director of the PUR Clinic at South Lake Hospital in Clermont, Fla. Dr. Parekattil expects Florida Poly will change Florida's high-tech landscape and serve as an incubator for students gifted in the core STEM subjects. Continued growth is critical to that process, he says, because expanded resources and programs will attract qualified students and faculty.

The Foundation plays a key role in making that growth happen. "What makes the University attractive to donors is its grassroots nature," he explains. **"You can clearly see the impact of your donation and you get to be a part of something special."**

# THE FUTURE IS BRIGHT FOR CAREERS IN THE FIELDS OF STEM

Current data and projections show a job market with stability, high demand and attractive wages. Here's what today's graduates can expect:

## GROWTH OF STEM

BY 2020, IT IS EXPECTED THAT **50 BILLION DEVICES** WILL BE CONNECTED TO THE INTERNET. That is more than six times the world population.

The annual amount of data generated is measured in zettabytes now and most of it is stored using cloud technology. Cloud technology is what makes it possible for you to stream your favorite show, ask your smartphone a question and access your presentation from any device. It's gaining momentum so quickly some analysts predict a third of all data will pass through or live in the cloud by 2020.

The U.S. Department of Defense is asking for **\$5.5 BILLION** IN FISCAL YEAR 2016 for cyber-related security functions.

## JOB OUTLOOK

The overall outlook for STEM fields is more favorable than a majority of other career areas. The number of available STEM jobs has increased by 28 percent since 2000, compared to 6 percent for all jobs. That trend is expected to continue through 2020.

**SOFTWARE DEVELOPER CAREERS** ARE EXPECTED TO GROW AS MUCH AS **32% BY 2020**

U.S. News and World Report's No. 1 Best STEM job: **COMPUTER SYSTEMS ANALYST** Its unemployment rate sits at just 2.6 percent. Others range on the list from a low of 1.8 percent up to a high of just 4 percent.

## JOB PAY

New STEM graduates can expect to earn about

**\$65,000** FOR AN **ENTRY LEVEL**

job in their field, according to the Winter 2016 Salary Survey from the National Association of Colleges and Employers.

For graduates leaving college with a **MASTER'S DEGREE IN ENGINEERING**, that starting salary is bumped up to

**\$74,000.**

**MASTER'S IN COMPUTER SCIENCE** is right behind it, with a salary of \$72,000.

# OTHER WAYS TO INVEST

For full details on how to give, visit: [flpoly.org/foundation](http://flpoly.org/foundation).

## FLORIDA POLY FELLOWS

With a proud history of support dating back to our founding, the Florida Poly Fellows are a vibrant and growing organization of members who annually invest in Florida Poly research and education at a variety of giving levels. Both individuals and corporations can sign up as a Florida Poly Fellow.

## NAMING OPPORTUNITIES

Florida Poly has big plans for the University's growth, both in new infrastructure like the upcoming Applied Research Center and in new donation opportunities. Here are a few of the options.

### Faculty Chairs

A named professorial chair is one of the highest forms of recognition an institution of higher learning bestows on its faculty. Such endowments allow Florida Poly the flexibility to offer competitive salaries to exceptional faculty members and to provide well-equipped research and teaching facilities.

### Visiting Professorships

Endowed funds for visiting professorships enable Florida Poly to invite distinguished educators and scientists to come on campus and engage with students and collaborate with members of the faculty.

### Faculty Start-up Funds

Endowments for faculty start-ups provide vital funds to seed research, renovate laboratory space and purchase equipment for new members of the Florida Poly faculty.

### Lectureships

Lectureship funds provide resources for campus lectures by visiting speakers who are distinguished in their given fields.

### Phoenix Funds

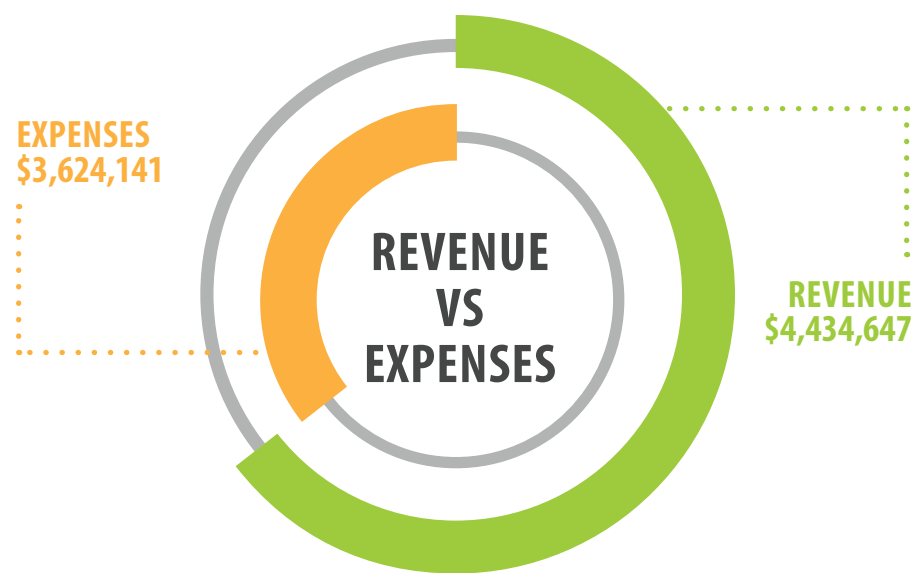
Discovery funds are unrestricted funds that help Florida Poly stay competitive by furnishing faculty and administrative leaders with flexible resources they can use to make smart investments on promising lines of research that otherwise might be abandoned for lack of funding.



Sabal Trail representative Andrea Grover presents President Randy K. Avent with a \$50,000 donation.

# FOUNDATION FINANCIALS

FISCAL YEAR  
2015 - 2016



**TOTAL DOLLARS TRANSFERRED TO THE UNIVERSITY FOR SCHOLARSHIPS**

**\$2,542,576**

## ENDOWMENT BREAKDOWN

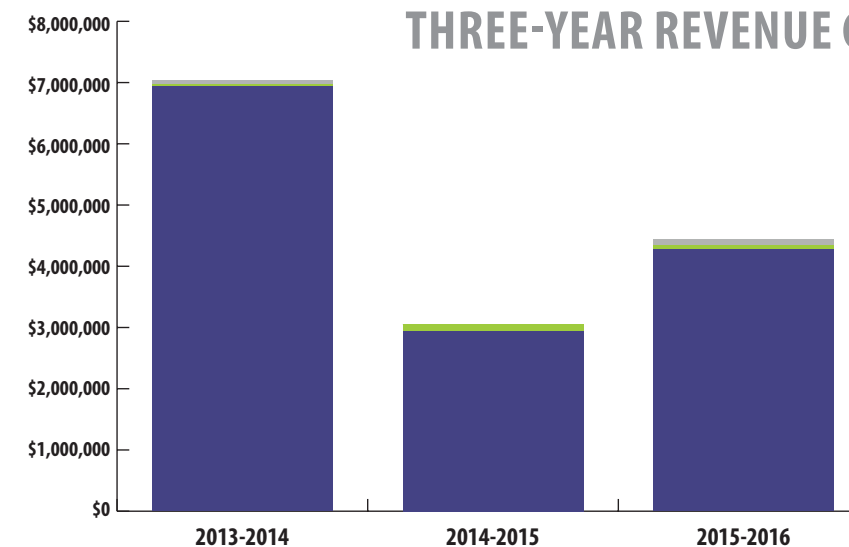
Beginning of Year – before Prior Year Restatement	\$191,631
Prior Year Restatement	\$400,000
Beginning of Year – Restated	\$591,631
New Gifts	\$83,205
Endowment at End of Year	\$674,836

## REVENUE BREAKDOWN BY RESTRICTION

Unrestricted	\$4,351,442
Permanently Restricted	\$83,205
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$4,434,647</b>

\* Net Assets Released from Restrictions

## THREE-YEAR REVENUE COMPARISON



<b>GIFTS</b>	\$6,963,753	\$2,940,304	\$4,275,187
<b>INVESTMENT INCOME</b>	\$7,846	\$114,768	\$71,610
<b>OTHER</b>	\$45,000	\$-	\$87,850
	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016

# WHY GIVE

*Florida Poly is uniquely situated as a new university to immediately influence the state's workforce. Our modern curriculum closely follows the latest trends in science and technology to prepare students for a multitude of careers. Economic drivers aside, here are six more reasons to give to Florida Poly:*

## 1 // FUELING AMBITION

This is the place students can chase their dreams, but first they have to get their foot in the door. Florida Poly's goal is to have at least 20 percent of its graduates become entrepreneurs. They work hard through a challenging curriculum to achieve success. **Your support rewards them with a scholarship.**

## 2 // CREATING SOLUTIONS

Our world faces many threats: pollution, disease, extreme weather and a growing population. The solutions to these problems are out there, but it takes innovative and skilled minds to find them. **Your investment ensures a brighter future.**

## 3 // QUALITY OF WORKFORCE

Over the course of their studies, students are exposed to multiple disciplines within STEM and encouraged to independently research and develop ideas. **The result of your donation is a well-rounded graduate with marketable skills.**

## 4 // HEAD START

Debt from student loans has soared over recent years to an estimated \$1.3 trillion, or, on average, \$37,172 per student. Students attending Florida Poly on a scholarship escape years of debt and can invest that money instead into a new enterprise or venture. **Your gift is a student's head start.**

## 5 // NATIONAL ADVANTAGE

High-tech advancement has no borders. Other developed countries are just as interested in creating the products and innovations that will elevate their position in the global economy and give them a cyber security edge. **Donations create advantages.**

## 6 // BOOSTING THE ECONOMY

Florida boasts the fourth largest economy in the U.S., with tourism, agriculture and international trade as its top three contributors to an \$840 billion gross domestic product. Florida Poly students are uniquely positioned to learn the most advanced trends in areas like logistics, databases and cyber security to continue that growth. **Your contributions boost Florida.**

# HOW TO GIVE

*The Florida Poly Foundation has several channels for you to give beyond check and credit card. Here's how to give:*

## MATCHING GIFT PROGRAMS

Double or even triple your gift by donating through your employer's matching gift program. Please contact your employer for instructions and send your completed matching gift form to [matchinggifts@fpoly.org](mailto:matchinggifts@fpoly.org).

## STOCKS AND SECURITIES

Gifts of appreciated securities — stocks, bonds, or mutual funds that have increased in value — support Florida Poly while earning an income tax deduction equal to the fair market value. A capital gains tax does not apply to the transfer.

## PERSONAL PROPERTY

Valuable property such as antiques, fine art, library books and musical instruments are all accepted as gifts after a qualified appraisal.

## REAL ESTATE

The Florida Poly Foundation accepts real estate property now or as a planned gift. It's also possible to grant your home to Florida Poly while still living in it, an option known as retained life estate.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON HOW TO GIVE, VISIT  
**FLPOLY.ORG/FOUNDATION**