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# Limitless

*The word has taken an almost gimmicky connotation, the kind of adjective that's casually slapped onto a sports drink or motivational book. But we take this concept seriously at Florida Polytechnic University.*

*We're on the fast track to reach our full potential as a university. This summer's accreditation announcement satisfies the sixth and final legislative milestone given to us at our founding. With these mandates behind us, we are truly limitless. Already we've begun to update our business processes, expand our curriculum and course offerings and become more selective about the students we admit to Florida Poly. And that's just the start.*

*To fully take advantage of our potential requires a lot of different teams at Florida Poly. Key among them is the Florida Poly Foundation. While we look inward to produce excellent coursework and first-rate facilities, the Foundation builds support primarily outside the University. Philanthropy is a cornerstone of our success, and that's why we lean so heavily on your support.*

*With industry insight, faithful donors and corporate partners in our corner, the Foundation is guaranteed a strong future. Bit by bit, we are building a nascent Foundation into a powerhouse for student achievement.*

*Thank you in advance for your continued support of this critical function of the University.*

*Sincerely,*

*Dr. Randy K. Avent  
Florida Polytechnic University President*



# Consider This

Since 2007, Florida's High Tech Corridor has seen its number of technology jobs jump from 135,000 to 238,000. Supplying that growth are 21,000 technology companies, up 7,600 from the past decade. That's a high-level view of what's happening right here in Central Florida. To get up-close with the growth of Florida's economy, visit Florida Polytechnic University.

You could talk to Michael Jernigan, a junior studying electrical engineering, who is tapping into the renewable energy market with a prototype that uses heat to power lights. Or senior Randy Lopez, CEO of Logentix, a company that is in early talks with Tesla about the software for his after-market autonomous vehicle product. Our work is taken seriously. This past year, a sophomore landed a \$20,000 grant from NASA to study space radiation and how to protect future travelers to Mars.

These opportunities are made possible thanks to the supporters of the Florida Poly Foundation. Students like Michael and Randy see that the University's resources and faculty can support their own passion for learning and research. Ambition isn't always matched with financial realities. Donors like you open doors through scholarships and other direct financial support.

Beyond monetary contributions, the Foundation counts on industry partners to welcome students for internships. This past summer, students brought their technology talents to Lockheed Martin, Harris Corp., Disney, General Electric and NASA – just to name a few. These internships bring classroom instruction to life, and introduce them to the realities of their chosen career. The benefits flow both ways. One student at Badcock Furniture & More fixed a bug in the company's app that had been plaguing them for some time.

Here's the bottom line. Investing in the Florida Poly Foundation yields long-term gains. That's a long-lasting legacy – and one that can include your mark.

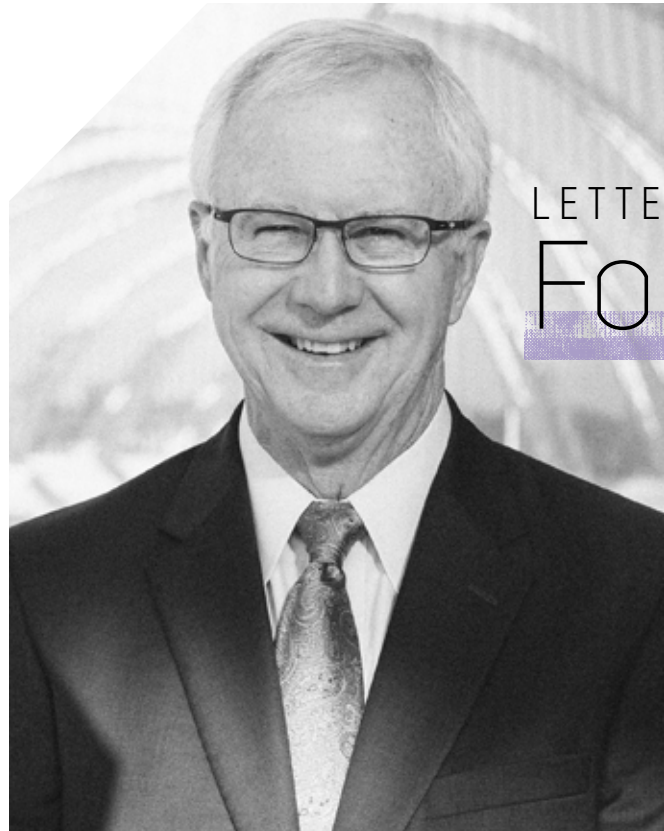
Sincerely,



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







## LETTER FROM THE Foundation Chair

### Enjoying a garden requires patience.

Long, fruitless hours go into planting seeds, watering, pulling weeds and all the other tasks required to make a garden grow. Then, one day, there's a sprout, and another, and before long, you can begin to enjoy the results of your labor.

Starting a new university carries parallels. Now with our fourth academic year underway, the seeds we planted have yielded a well-established, accredited university drawing students and faculty from all corners of the globe. We've hit our fair share of obstacles along the way, but the fruits of our labor have made it all worth it. Now, it's time to expand.

Our vision for the future of Florida Poly includes legislative priorities like the Applied Research Center, which will boost our available lab space and high-tech research capabilities. We're also updating and expanding our curriculum and course offerings to better meet the needs of current and potential students. These types of undertakings will shape Florida Poly into the titan of STEM education we know it can be.

Your support on this journey has brought us to this point, but there is so much further to go. Thank you for your continued commitment to bringing Florida Poly and its students to their full potential.

Sincerely,

Ford Heacock III  
Florida Poly Foundation Board Chair



# The University Foundation Board

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.

### Board of Directors

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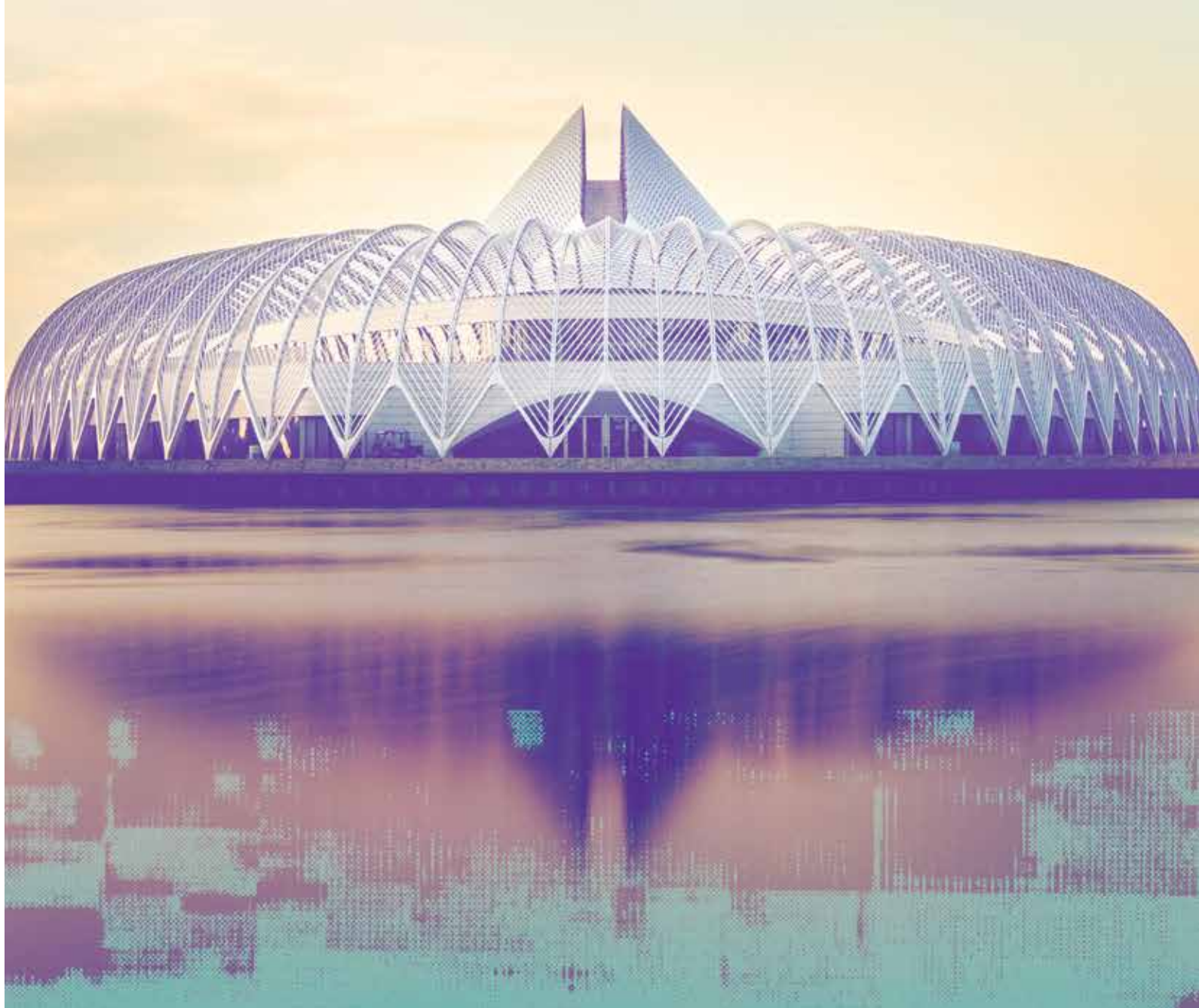
**DON WILSON**  
Partner, Boswell & Dunlap



### WHY GIVE

#### CREATE A LEGACY

Your commitment to Florida Poly deserves recognition. Designating funds to name a building, scholarship or other opportunities like a faculty chair means your name or brand is seen by every visitor to campus. That's a smart investment. Your contribution leaves a permanent impact.



# Laying the Groundwork for Growth

**Building a world-renowned university doesn't happen overnight. We have a clear vision for Florida Poly and are taking steps to see that plan mature over the next decade. The buzz and hum of construction will be a constant presence on campus as we create an attractive hub for students and faculty to research, play and learn.**



#### PHASE II WELLNESS CENTER

This new feature on campus will double as a place for students to enjoy swimming, a rock climbing wall and other recreation options and as a strong recruitment tool.



#### STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT CENTER

The Student Achievement Center will engage students, faculty, industry and the community by providing collaborative and conference spaces currently not found anywhere else on campus.



#### SUNTRAX

SunTrax is a 400-acre testing center for tolling technology that will feature a 200-acre infield where students can study emerging technology like autonomous vehicles.



#### APPLIED RESEARCH CENTER

This dedicated research space will allow students and faculty to test groundbreaking ideas using the most cutting-edge technology.

Ready to Invest? Give today:  
[foundation.floridapoly.edu](http://foundation.floridapoly.edu)



THANKS TO OUR 2017  
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Chemical Containers, Inc.  
Citizens Bank & Trust  
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Don and Holly Wilson  
DSM Technology Consultants  
Duke Energy  
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**INNOVATOR (CONT.):**

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Regal Lakeland  
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Sparxoo  
Straughn & Turner, P.A.  
Straughn Trout Architects  
Tinsley Family Concessions

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John and Sarah Jane Alexander  
Keller Williams Realty  
Kevin and Jan Hyman  
New Beginnings High School  
Southern Strategy Group



**RHETT  
FITCHETT**

**WHO HE IS:**

Florida Poly senior from Lakeland, FL.

**BUG CATCHER:**

At an internship with Badcock Furniture & More, Rhett detected and fixed a problem in the business' app.

**ECONOMIC IMPACT:**

Gaining hands-on experience in app development prepares Rhett for a career in an industry that contributed \$1.4 trillion to the national economy in 2016.

**UP&COMING  
ENTREPRENEURS**





# Force for Change

Sophomore  
Jenario Johnson



**Jenario Johnson is an engineering student by day, retail employee by night and, because he's passionate about his project, a late-night entrepreneur. While growing up in Tampa, he was constantly taking things apart to learn how they worked and putting things back together in new and creative ways. During his time as a Tampa Police Explorer, he brought one of his creations to show a friend and first learned about Florida Poly.**

"I always assumed I'd get my associate's degree and stay close to home for college," Jenario says. When he learned that Florida Poly offered the chance to specialize in STEM studies while surrounded by stunning architecture, as well as the opportunity to be one of the first students to benefit from world-class facilities, he couldn't resist.

During his second year at Florida Poly, Jenario was inspired by an episode of the anime series Dragon Ball Z and his real-life passion for the martial art called Krav Maga to produce a device that could measure the power of a punch. Bringing the fantasy world to life, Jenario created StrikeSense – a small device that uses accelerometric technology to help martial artists track the velocity of their punches.

"We have the opportunity to be supported by our professors and fellow students when creating something," Jenario explains. As one of the founding members of the Enactus chapter on Florida Poly's

campus, Jenario can use fellow students as a sounding board for his concepts. He has several ideas for how StrikeSense could be used in the future, from multiple different sports to becoming a full-fledged in-home coaching tool.

"The next phase for StrikeSense will be creating an app so you can track your progress," Jenario says. Moving to mobile would be a significant advancement, as it would enable users to take physical progress tracking into their own hands and even help with safety. Jenario notes, "A lot of injuries happen because an athlete has bad form or is pushing too hard. Eventually, StrikeSense will be able to help you know when you're likely to injure yourself."

"Florida Poly gives us all the resources we need to make our ideas come to life," Jenario says. Noting the small band along Johnson's wrist – a StrikeSense prototype, which is no more conspicuous than a fitness tracker or smart watch – it's clear he is right.

**"Florida Poly gives us all the resources we need to make our ideas come to life."**

*Jenario Johnson*

Jenario shows off his prototype of StrikeSense.



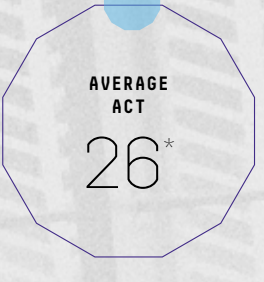
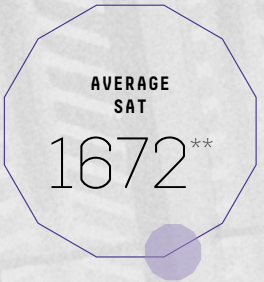
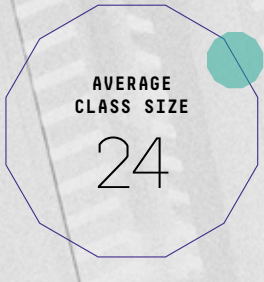
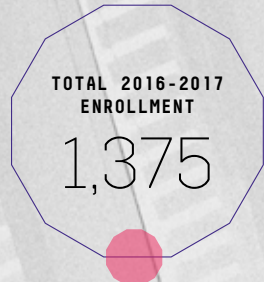
StrikeSense records your data while working out, which will be viewable through the app that's being developed.

## WHY GIVE

### HEAD START

Student loans in the U.S. now measure in the trillions of dollars — about \$620 billion more than the nation's credit card debt. Scholarships generated by your contribution help students escape this burden and graduate with funds they can invest in a business or venture. [Your gift is a student's head start.](#)





By the numbers:  
An academic year in review  
\*For FTIC only and Fall 2016 starts.  
\*\*Based on the 2016-2017 scoring system.

# Launch Pad for Success

**There are some universities in existence where no one alive remembers their first graduation. Not so at Florida Poly. The state's newest public university marked a major milestone in 2017 when it bookended its Spring semester with graduations.**

On Jan. 2, 18 students claimed their degrees as the first graduating class of Florida Poly. "These graduates are among Florida Poly's earliest pioneers," said Florida Poly President Dr. Randy K. Avent. "It took ambition, vision and an entrepreneurial spirit to come to a brand-new university, and I have no doubt they will carry those same qualities into the workforce as leaders and

business starters in high tech. I'm so excited to see all they will do in the years to come." Florida Poly graduate Gabriela Martines was the featured student graduation speaker. She has already been hired by Millennium Engineering and Integration Company to work on a NASA contract. Martines said being part of the inaugural graduating class is something she will always remember. "I felt like I was making history when I first came to Florida

Poly, and I feel like I'm doing so again as a member of the first graduating class," said Gabi, who majored in Mechanical Engineering with a concentration in Motion Intelligence. "The entire Florida Poly experience has taught me that with vision, collaboration and hard work, people can create great, new things and really make an impact. That's one of the biggest takeaways I'm going to reflect on time and time again as I grow in my career." The second graduation, held April 28, graduated 24 students.

**"The entire Florida Poly experience has taught me that with vision, collaboration and hard work, people can create great, new things and really make an impact."**

*Gabi Martines*



# The ROI on Giving

*"We need forward-thinking engineers and that's what's coming out of Florida Poly... I don't know why you wouldn't want to invest in these students."*

*Jerry Miller  
Duke Energy*

## There's an immediate return to funding scholarships. But Jerry Miller, Government and Community Relations Manager, sees a future benefit beyond next year's class of scholars at Florida Poly.

Like any business, Duke Energy is investing not only in its current infrastructure and employees, but looking toward the future. A highly technical company like Duke needs a workforce with the expertise to meet

existing needs and develop new, innovative ways of doing business.

Jerry sees Florida Poly's potential to meet that need. "STEM education is vitally important to our industry.

We need forward-thinking engineers and that's what's coming out of Florida Poly," he says. "I don't know why you wouldn't want to invest in these students." This year Duke acted on its commitment to educating future Florida

leaders with a \$50,000 scholarship donation to the Foundation. The money will be used to fund scholarships for up to 50 students.

"Duke Energy is proud to support educational initiatives for our future leaders," said Harry Sideris, Duke Energy Florida president. "Our industry's commitment to STEM education is well-aligned with Florida's Polytechnic University's mission, and our scholarship grant provides students with the opportunity to realize

their full potential and create models of success that will have positive implications for years to come."

Funding a Florida Poly education is personal for Jerry. As a former president of the Central Florida Council, he has witnessed firsthand the impact polytechnic universities can have on a surrounding area. "This is a great option for local students. They can gain an excellent engineering education and not even have to go out of state or around the world," Jerry says.

Ready to Invest? Give today:  
foundation.floridapoly.edu



President Randy Avent poses with Jerry Miller and Gregory Wright from Duke Energy.



## CELESTE RAMIREZ

### WHO SHE IS:

Florida Poly junior from Eustis, FL.

### CREATING WORLDS:

An internship opened an opportunity for Celeste to gain real-world experience creating video game worlds.

### ECONOMIC IMPACT:

Celeste can hold a job in a market worth about \$99 billion globally.

UP&COMING  
ENTREPRENEURS

## WHY GIVE

### TALENT PIPELINE

Giving to Florida Poly is a two-way street. Attractive scholarships help us recruit the brightest, most forward-thinking students to the University. Your continued support in the form of internships and student projects yields a high-tech workforce prepared to fill your next job opening.



# Driven to Succeed

Close-up of the log-in screen for Logentix.



## WHY GIVE

### SUPPORT INNOVATION

Florida Poly is a testing ground for big ideas. Your contributions connect Florida Poly students and faculty with the laboratories, mentorships and learning environments that produce solutions to the world's problems. Your investment ensures a brighter future.

**Randy Lopez, a senior at Florida Poly, knows that serving the market is the clearest road to success. Logentix, his growing business that aims to make fleet driving more streamlined and safe, does just that.**

Logentix began as a project focused on aftermarket automation. Then Randy and his team of fellow Florida Poly students, Joshua Rentrope and Josiah Hunsinger, realized their technology could help truck drivers. Nearly 400,000 large trucks are involved in crashes each year; Randy wants to reduce that number.

Logentix is set to change the way commercial truckers receive information about the road and their driving. Installation is easy; the Logentix plug-in is about the size of an iPad Mini. It accesses real-time driving updates, gives information about parking, and includes a host of other safety features like a front-facing camera that helps detect if a driver is falling asleep. A pilot program will launch in Publix trucks this December.

Understanding the market, developing business relationships, and giving product pitches have all come with a learning curve. Luckily for Randy, the professors at Florida Poly have been there to help him along the way. "(Entrepreneurship Coordinator) Justin Heacock and Dr. William Rhey have been great mentors, helping us understand how to be more

entrepreneurial with our creations," Randy says. "They help us practice our pitches and understand how to better serve the needs of the market."

Preparation pays off. In 2017, the Logentix team had top-three finishes in pitch competitions like the Florida Venture Forum and the Roundtable of Entrepreneurship Educators of Florida (REEF). They also took first place at Florida Poly's inaugural Great Eight Business Pitch competition.

Their success has led to meetings with industry leaders like Saddle Creek Logistics and Tesla, Inc. "I knew that attending Florida Poly would be a big leap," says Randy. "I was accepted at Cornell, but between the scholarships and the mentorship and growth opportunities I'd get from attending a brand-new school, I couldn't pass up my chance. I'm glad I chose Florida Poly."

Considering his next adventure: "You have to have a million-dollar idea," Randy muses, "because it opens the door to chasing your billion-dollar idea." For Randy and his team, that billion-dollar idea could be just around the corner.

The Logentix team pose with their prototype.



*"I was accepted at Cornell, but between the scholarships and the mentorship and growth opportunities I'd get from attending a brand-new school, I couldn't pass up my chance. I'm glad I chose Florida Poly."*

Randy Lopez





# Moving with Purpose after Graduation

**Aaron Payne will never forget the first time he saw a stack of Gatorade taller than his house. “That made a lasting impression on me for sure,” Aaron says about his first tour of the Saddle Creek Logistics Services warehouses.**

Florida Poly alumni Aaron Payne



That introduction to Saddle Creek’s expansive headquarters in Lakeland led first to an internship for Aaron. Even before taking a full-time job after graduation in May 2017 as a business systems analyst, Aaron’s impact on the business was felt. Saddle Creek’s customers rely on the company’s wide network of trucks, warehouses and packing personnel to move product from one point to another. The company’s reputation is built on efficiency, speed and safety.

Aaron also spearheaded a web-based portal for Saddle Creek’s customers to take a look at their key performance indicators, track shipments and keep track of inventory in warehouses. Not bad for a student who started at Florida Poly with zero logistics knowledge. “I had an associate’s degree in business. I didn’t know what logistics was, but it sounded like something that went along with business,” Aaron says. “Now I know that’s quite the understatement.”

With this in mind, a group of Florida Poly students including Aaron tackled a choice most Central Florida residents planning a trip are familiar with: toll road or Interstate 4 traffic. Creeping along in rush hour could mean freight arrives late, but toll roads are costly. Using coding languages like Python, Aaron and his team developed a program that taps into Google Maps every five minutes for real-time traffic updates. By comparing established costs against traffic data, truck drivers can make an informed decision on which route to take.

Supply chain management touches everything from the cereal on the shelf at your local grocery store to the rise of online shopping juggernauts like Amazon. Classes at Florida Poly equipped Aaron with the knowledge he needs to think creatively about solving logistics challenges and to effectively implement those ideas. “All the courses have boiled down to things I use every day,” Aaron says.

**“All the courses have boiled down to things I use every day.”**

*Aaron Payne*

# Florida Poly Receives Accreditation

Achieving accreditation is no small task. The application alone takes months of preparation, followed by a rigorous review process and in-person interviews and site visits. The reward is two

words, “regionally accredited,” which signal to the wider world that our curriculum and business processes have been thoroughly vetted and approved. That assurance is a key recruitment tool

for potential students and faculty, and a promise to deliver only the highest-quality STEM education to the next generation of high-tech business leaders.

Florida Poly’s application was strong enough to accelerate the evaluation process by six months.



# Other Ways to Invest

Ready to invest? Give today: [foundation.floridapoly.edu](https://foundation.floridapoly.edu)

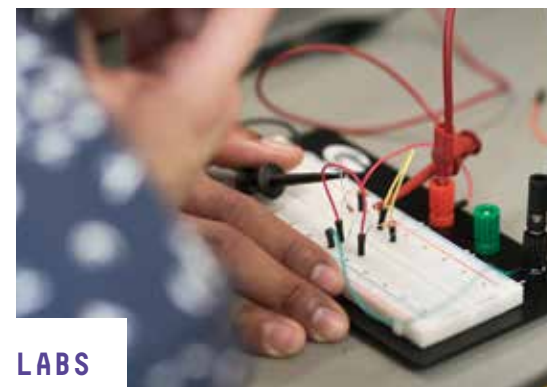
## Florida Poly Fellows

Gain access to members-only events and support scholarships as a Florida Poly Fellow. This role is increasingly important as the University expands its list of community partners.

## Naming Opportunities

Naming opportunities are an excellent opportunity to both show your commitment to Florida Poly's mission and spread brand awareness. Here are a few of the options:

- VISITING PROFESSORSHIPS
- COLLABORATION ROOMS
- BUILDINGS
- FACULTY CHAIRS
- FACULTY STARTUP FUNDS
- LECTURESHIPS
- PHOENIX FUNDS
- CREATE YOUR OWN



## WHY GIVE

### BOOSTING THE ECONOMY

Bringing products to market and training students to become entrepreneurs are high priorities for Florida Poly. By contributing to the University, you're opening opportunities for the next generation of high-tech leaders. [Your donation is a launch pad for the economy.](#)

In the past decade, STEM jobs have grown

**24.4%**

The salary projection for computer science graduates is

**\$65,540**

STEM jobs pay more than non-STEM jobs by

**29%**

Average starting salary for engineering majors

**\$66,097**

By 2024, computer & math jobs are projected to grow

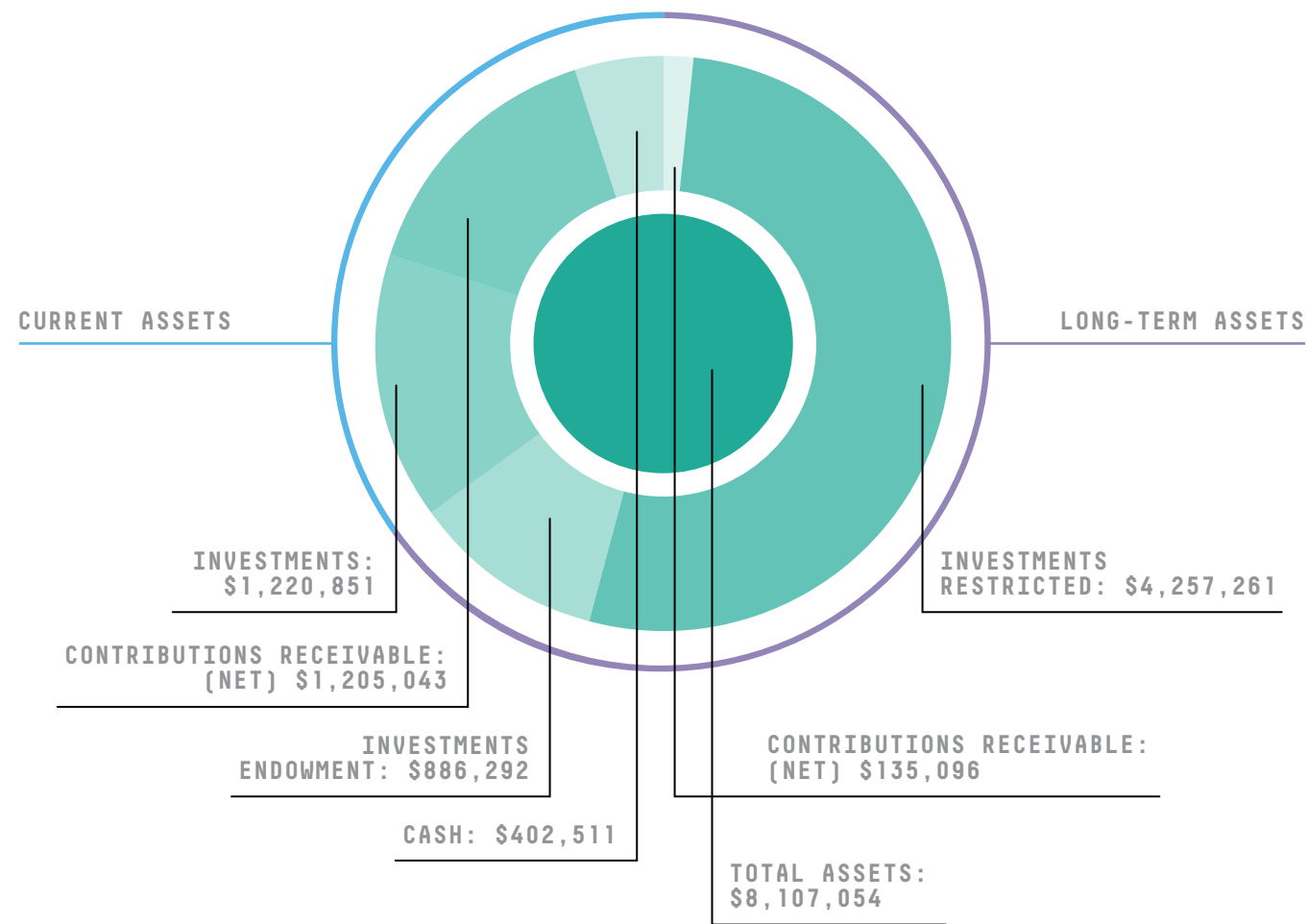
**13.1%**

# High Demand. High Wages.



# Fiscal Year 2016-2017 Financials

## ASSETS



## ENDOWMENT BREAKDOWN



## TOTAL NUMBER OF GIFTS

2,188

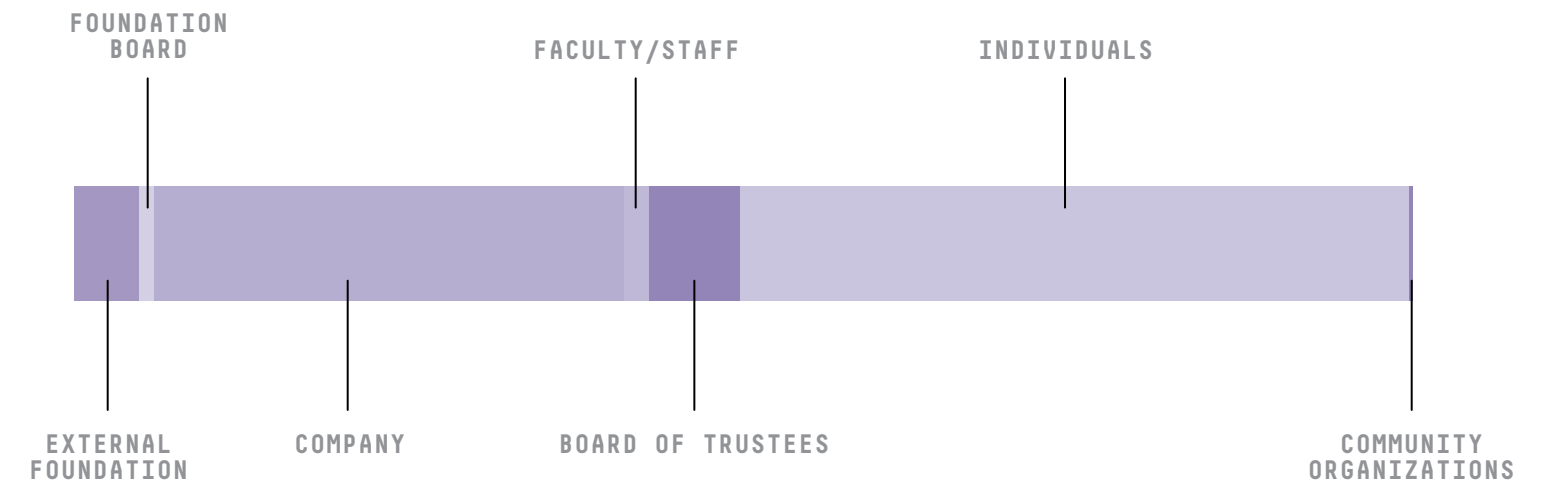
## TOTAL NUMBER OF DONORS

511

## TOTAL MONEY TRANSFERRED TO FLORIDA POLY FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

\$5,090,192

## CONTRIBUTIONS BY DONOR TYPE







Florida Poly's  
2017 PIVOT Gala



# How to Give

## Matching Gift Programs

Double or even triple your gift by donating through your employer's matching gift program. Many employers offer matching gift programs for charitable contributions made by employees, retirees and spouses.

## Stocks and Securities

With gifts of appreciated securities—stocks, bonds or mutual funds that have increased in value—you can support Florida Poly while earning an income tax deduction equal to the fair market value. A capital gains tax may not apply to the transfer. Consult with your financial advisor to learn more.

## Personal Property

Florida Poly accepts gifts of personal property with a qualified appraisal, such as antiques, fine art, electronics or musical instruments. These gifts will be accepted in accordance with our gift acceptance policy.

## Real Estate

Your residence or other real estate property can be given to Florida Poly now or as a planned gift. As an added benefit, you may give your home to Florida Poly and still retain the right to live in it, an option called retained life estate.

## Pivot

Our signature event, the Pivot gala is a fun-filled evening of dancing and good food that benefits scholarships.

## Women in STEM

Diversity in the STEM fields is a top priority for Florida Poly. To that end, we annually host an event that combines industry thought leaders, networking opportunities and inspirational stories to spur the next generation of high-tech leaders.

## Estate and Planned Giving

Legacy giving is crucial to the growth of the University. You can include Florida Poly in your estate plans, and leave a lasting impression on the University and future students. A bequest is a gift made from your estate, and may be in the form of cash, securities or other property. Florida Poly may also be outlined as a beneficiary of your retirement or life insurance policy. These gifts are included in the language of your will or living trust, or discussed with your policy administrator.

Any unrestricted gifts received during the year go directly toward funding the University's priorities. These gifts may be made once or multiple times through a recurring donation.



Women gather to participate in Florida Poly's annual Women in STEM event



**Give Today!**  
**foundation.**  
**floridapoly.edu**