

# Your Support, Their *Success*



FAIRLEIGH  
DICKINSON  
UNIVERSITY

“ I walked these halls as a student and the FDU experience changed my life forever.”

*President Michael J. Avaltroni*



## Putting Students *First*

I am honored to be serving as the president of Fairleigh Dickinson University. I am also a proud graduate of the University and know first-hand the impact that an FDU education can have. I walked these halls as a student and the FDU experience changed my life forever.

Our University has provided transformative experiences for students from all walks of life. Over the years, though, student needs have grown greater and today they face more difficult challenges than ever before. In response, we must adapt and provide more flexible, more affordable and more immersive learning experiences that are aligned with career opportunities and real-world demands. We are more determined than ever to meet students where they are, define our priorities around their changing needs and provide them a place where they belong and can forge an identity to make a powerful impact.

All this is to say we couldn't do what we do without your ongoing generosity and support. So, on behalf of our students, thank you for choosing to be a part of their lives and success!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'MA', written over a white background.

Michael J. Avaltroni, Ph.D.  
President

# Honoring His Great-Grandmother By Helping Others

How Jermaine Pharmes, BA'10, MAS'11, established The Helen Pharmes Memorial Scholarship



“ I wanted to do something to help out however I could.”

*Jermaine Pharmes, BA'10, MAS'11*

Fairleigh Dickinson University has always held a special place in Jermaine Pharmes' heart. Reflecting on his early days at FDU, Jermaine shares, “It was a great feeling! I knew there were leaders at the school committed to helping me toward my goals. My mother is an alumna of the MAS program and always raved about her experience while at FDU. Of course, she was spot on! The University welcomed me with open arms and guided me to the finish line.”

Inspired by his journey at FDU and eager to give back, Jermaine established a scholarship to honor his great-grandmother, Helen Pharmes, who instilled in him the value of helping others. The Helen Pharmes Memorial Scholarship supports underrepresented students from Lincoln and Snyder High Schools in Jersey City. Jermaine hopes the recipients know, “They can do whatever they set their minds to! The scholarship is just a way to assist them along their journey.”

Now, as the director of business diversity at the New Jersey Economic Development Authority and a real estate agent with Liberty Realty in Hoboken, Jermaine continues to give back. He serves as a Board of Governor for the FDU Alumni Association, volunteers at the Hudson County Rotary Club, co-founded the Empowerment Academy Charter School in Jersey City, and supports the Jersey City Police Activity League.

For those considering how they can give back, Jermaine offers simple yet impactful advice: “Find a way to give something. It could be money, time, or whatever you can offer. Stay connected to the school and find a way to contribute.”



“ Ever since I was a kid, I wanted to become a high-ranking officer of the law. Whether it's as a state trooper, a sheriff, or an FBI agent, receiving the Helen Pharmes Memorial Scholarship has motivated me to give my all to my studies. I feel honored and blessed to be chosen as the recipient of this generosity.”

**Dany Terrero-Santana**, Sophomore | Major: Criminal Justice  
*The Helen Pharmes Memorial Scholarship* Recipient

All Because  
— of You —

177

privately funded scholarships

1,170

student scholarship recipients

\$9.8M

awarded in private scholarships

94%

of undergraduate students  
received some form of scholarship  
or financial aid

\$501,313

raised during 42 Hours of Giving

\$75.2M

institutional financial aid  
awarded to students



Scan the QR code  
to watch our *FDU  
Forward* video  
and hear from our  
students how you've  
impacted their lives!

## STUDENT VOICES:

# The *Impact* of Your Giving



“If my time at FDU has taught me anything, it’s that kindness, generosity, and support—especially from donors—can transform lives, just as they have transformed mine.”

**Jessica Finucan**, Junior  
Major: Biology

Coming from a single-income household, I knew that college would only be possible through scholarships. While FDU’s beautiful campus and opportunities excited me, it was the generous financial support that sealed my decision to commit to burgundy and blue.

The student experiences I took part in on campus have helped me to realize even my biggest dreams are within reach, provided I get involved. I joined the Biological Learning Community and collaborated with the on-campus food pantry to create a sustainable produce garden. As part of a Tropical Ecology course, I found myself in Ecuador immersed in the Amazon Rainforest. I lay awake in my cabin one morning and listened to the howler monkeys outside in the trees. It was then I felt an overwhelming sense of destiny rush over me. This once-in-a-lifetime unimaginable moment was only made possible by scholarships.

Upon graduation, I look forward to pursuing a doctoral degree in endocrine physiology and following my passion for promoting healthcare in underserved communities, driven by my own personal diagnosis of polycystic ovarian syndrome—a hormonal disorder that affects millions of women with limited treatment options.

I am deeply grateful to everyone who has contributed to my journey. None of this would have been possible without the continued support of donors like you who believe in students like me.

## 2023-2024 GIFTS

# \$5,189,053

Total Gifts

# 4,312

Total Donors

## 1,592

Alumni

## 2,289

Friends and  
Parents

## 235

Corporations and  
Foundations

## 133

Faculty and Staff

## 63

Current Students

# 1,296

First Time Donors

# \$549

Average First Gift

# \$14,070

raised by the Class of 2024 for student scholarships, the campus food pantries, and the student emergency fund

# 296

Donors Giving 10+ years

## GIVING SOCIETIES

# 1942

**SOCIETY**

5+ consecutive years supporting  
*The Fund for FDU*

# 409

Members

# \$257,023

contributed to *The Fund for FDU*  
by 1,139 donors

# Legacy

**GUILD**

individuals who have included FDU  
in their estate plans

# 114

Members

### A NOTE FOR THE GIVING SOCIETIES:

*Coming Soon!*

Exclusive VIP access to campus events and programs, and special benefits coming soon for our leadership giving society members. Be on the lookout for more details coming this Spring.



# THANK YOU

The diversity of our campus community, our dynamic curricular programs, and enriching student experiences make Fairleigh Dickinson University a vibrant home for students who are eager to learn and shape their futures.

At FDU, we are committed to putting students first, and this commitment is made possible thanks to the support of our alumni, friends, parents, students, corporations, and foundations. Together, our community of donors contributed more than \$5 million to support 107 different campus initiatives this past fiscal year. Their generosity has enabled us to fund over 150 scholarships, enhance student mental health services, support programs for first-generation college students, and provide resources for students with learning disabilities, among other crucial areas.

The spirit of giving within our community continually inspires me in my role at FDU. It drives me to ensure that every student who chooses FDU has the access and opportunities needed to craft their own unique journey. Thank you for believing in FDU and for helping to lay the foundation for our students' success.

With gratitude,

Colleen Coppla, Senior Vice President  
University Advancement



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- For questions, email us at [thefundforfdu@fdu.edu](mailto:thefundforfdu@fdu.edu) or call (201) 692-7007

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