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RMU Surpasses Record-setting Fundraising Goal Ahead of Schedule
The Ready to Rise campaign has brought in more than \$100 million for scholarships, academic programs, and new facilities

Pittsburgh, December 8, 2020 – Robert Morris University has surpassed its goal in its record-setting \$100 million fundraising campaign, nearly one year ahead of schedule.

The university publicly unveiled the *RMU 100: Ready to Rise* campaign on November 12, 2019, with the goal to raise \$100 million by time of RMU's 100th anniversary on September 21, 2021. The university surpassed that fundraising milestone last week, raising \$100,256,000 in gifts and pledges thus far.

“We are humbled and grateful at the generosity of our donors, who contributed to the university even in the midst of a global pandemic and recession,” said RMU President Chris Howard. “It is a testament to how much this community cares about our students, who are the biggest beneficiaries of this campaign.”

Donors to the *Ready to Rise* campaign include RMU alumni, faculty and staff, parents and students, and corporations and foundations. All told, the campaign has 14,700 donors to date who have given an average gift of \$6,820. The *Ready to Rise* campaign has taken in more than twice as much as the university's previous campaign, *Changing Lives, Building Futures*, which ended in 2012 and raised \$40.5 million.

“This is a moment of great pride for Robert Morris University, and one in which we can all share,” said Richard J. Harshman, chair of the RMU Board of Trustees and a 1978 graduate of the university. “RMU has not only transformed the lives of students and alumni like me, but it has also transformed all of our communities.”

During the *Ready to Rise* campaign, the value of RMU's endowment has grown by \$16 million, and much of that money funds scholarships. Major projects and initiatives funded by the campaign include:

- [The UPMC Events Center](#), a sports, entertainment, and conference center which opened in May 2019 and is home to RMU's NCAA Division I basketball and volleyball teams.
- An income share agreement program, called the [Colonial Success Fund](#), that helps students finance their education while reducing traditional student loan debt.
- An expansion and renovation of the John Jay Center for the [School of Engineering, Mathematics and Science](#), which includes new engineering laboratories and classrooms.
- Scaife Hall, which is home to RMU's nursing and other health care programs, including the state-of-art [Research and Innovation in Simulation Education Center](#).
- The university's first endowed professorship, [the Richard J. Harshman Professorship of Accounting](#), supported by a \$1 million contribution from Allegheny Technologies Incorporated in honor of Harshman, ATI's retired chairman, president, and CEO.
- The Student Recreation and Fitness Center, which includes intramural basketball courts, a weight and cardio rooms, space for fitness classes, as well as locker rooms and outdoor courts, all for general student use.

"RMU is a special place. This campaign is a testament to the generosity and dedication of the university's alumni and friends who believed in this ambitious vision. As a family, we've ensured that the future is bright for RMU," said Matthew Millet, RMU vice president for development and a 1999 graduate of the university.

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ABOUT ROBERT MORRIS UNIVERSITY

Robert Morris University is a nationally ranked doctoral research university enrolling approximately 4,600 undergraduate and graduate students in more than 100 undergraduate and graduate degree programs. RMU offers fully online courses as well as a traditional residential college experience at its campus on 230 scenic acres 17 miles from downtown Pittsburgh. The Colonials compete in 16 NCAA Division I sports, including basketball, ice hockey, football, volleyball, and lacrosse.

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