HONOR ROLL OF DONORS

JANUARY 1, 2023 – DECEMBER 31, 2023
Dear SMU Friends and Alumni,

As we reflect on 2023, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to each one of you for your steadfast support of Samuel Merritt University (SMU). Because of you, SMU continues to be a beacon of hope, making a significant and meaningful impact on both our community and the students we are dedicated to serving.

The past year was a testament to our resilience and shared vision. Here are some remarkable highlights from 2023:

- **Oakland Campus Expansion:** SMU broke ground on its new state-of-the-art flagship campus in Oakland City Center on April 10, 2023. This monumental project is set to reshape our University’s future, with a grand opening scheduled for January 1, 2026.

- **Generous Donation:** The late Dr. William Lowe, DPM 1957, and his wife Phyllis made an extraordinary contribution, donating $1 million to SMU’s College of Podiatric Medicine in support of new campus building construction. Their generosity will undoubtedly leave a lasting legacy.

- **Government Partnership:** U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Xavier Becerra visited SMU’s Oakland campus on June 15 to launch a groundbreaking Healthcare Workforce Initiative aimed at enhancing the diversity of healthcare workers nationwide.

- **National Recognition:** SMU continues to receive national acclaim, as demonstrated by U.S. News & World Report’s latest rankings of graduate schools, which positions SMU among the nation’s top providers of graduate health education.

These achievements transcend mere milestones; they are the tangible outcomes of your generosity and unwavering dedication of our entire SMU community. The strides made in 2023 would not have been possible without your steadfast commitment to our mission.

With your ongoing support, we are poised to make an even more profound impact on healthcare, health sciences education, and the communities we humbly serve. Your confidence in our vision and dedication to our cause are the driving forces behind our continued success, which we are eager to build upon in 2024 and beyond. Thanks to your invaluable contributions and unwavering commitment to SMU, we can collectively embrace the promising future that lies ahead.

Sincerely,

Dr. Ching-Hua Wang
President, Samuel Merritt University
SMU LEADERSHIP CIRCLES: TRANSFORMATIVE PHILANTHROPY

Members in SMU Leadership Circles make a powerful impact on Samuel Merritt University and our students. We acknowledge and appreciate their significant role in the University’s advancement — leadership donors are crucial SMU partners in advancing the future of healthcare.

To express our gratitude to this special cohort of supporters, Leadership Circle benefits include:

• Special event invitations.
• Exclusive SMU swag.
• Recognition throughout the year.

Leadership Circle giving is crucial to empowering the aspiring minds of tomorrow’s healthcare professionals, unlocking their fullest potential for good.
RECOGNIZING OUR LEADERSHIP CIRCLE DONORS

Individual donors acknowledged in full list below.

PRESIDENT’S CIRCLE

Members make an annual gift of $1,500 or more to Samuel Merritt University.

Membership indicated with * by name.

NURSING DEAN’S CIRCLE

Members make an annual gift of $500 or more to the College of Nursing.

Membership indicated with • by name.

PODIATRY DEAN’S CIRCLE

Members make an annual gift of $500 or more to the California School of Podiatric Medicine (CSPM).

Membership indicated with ◊ by name.

HEALTH SCIENCES DEAN’S CIRCLE

Members make an annual gift of $500 or more to the College of Health Sciences.

Membership indicated with # by name.
1909 Legacy Society recognizes the generous individuals who advance SMU's mission to educate highly skilled and compassionate healthcare professionals through provisions in their estate plans.

I am proud to fund a scholarship through my trust to empower nurses who are excellent clinicians to continue learning throughout their lives. I loved my nursing career. My mother and aunt were nurses too, so my future gift will honor decades of nursing in my family by helping new generations of students.

- Kirsten Bertelsen Griffin 1961

Endowing her scholarship through her estate plans.
THANK YOU TO OUR 2023 SMU DONORS

* President’s Circle • Nursing Dean’s Circle ◊ Podiatry Dean’s Circle # Health Sciences Dean’s Circle

Dr. John W. Aaron III 1981
Carolina Abbassi 2002
Dr. Fusae K. Abbott •
Dr. John E. Abordo 2003
Dr. Emily R. Abueg 2022
Alice and Colin Adams •
Sheila and Silvio Addiego
Neptaly Aguilera
Dr. Joseph B. Agyen 2017
Alameda Contra Costa Podiatric Medical Association •
Samann Alavi-Irvine
Perla Albavera-Palomares
American Association of Colleges of Nursing •
American Endowment Foundation
Amy H. Anderson
Annalisa and Brent Anderson
Dannie L. Anderson 1985 •
Ann E. Andrews 1953
Marsha A. Anthony 1969 •
Robert Arnold
Adam Arroyo 2005
Dr. Pedram B. Aslmand 2000 •
Virginia B. Atkinson 1993
Sally S. Bachman 1974
Anita Korngold Backer 1981
Julia Bacon
Tavi Baker
Constance A. Baker-Cohn 2016
Sharry A. Ball 1975
Stephanie and James Bangert
Brad and Cindy Barber • •
Nicole Barbieri 2023
Ben Barr
Barbara A. Barrera 1963
Miriam J. Barrere 2012
Dr. Daniel C. Barry 1988
Alexandria L. Bautista 2021
Dr. Brandy J. Beazley 2021
Cheryl D. Becerra 1998
Tamatha K. Bechtle •
Melanie Bell-Mayeda
Benefit
JoAnn M. Bergesen 1969
Diane L. Bevis 1978
Linda K. Biondini 1977
Dr. Richard L. Blake 1979 •
Mark A. Block 2011
Susan M. Bock 1992
Sheila E. Bolin 1959
Geraldine E. Borgeson 1968 •
Dr. Yvonne D. Bosser 2022
Heidi M. Boyle 2000
Grace M. Boyson 1980
Dr. Steven M. Brandwene 1983
Dr. Diane D. Branks 1985
Beth L. Bratt 2001
Valerie J. Brazda 1957
Dr. Donna Breger-Stanton •
Dr. Patrick K. Briggs 1998 and Ms. Helene Harding •
Angela D. Brock 2020
Peaches B. Brosas 2020
Dr. Damieon Brown 2003
Dr. and Mrs. Jonathan A. Brown • ◊ #
Dr. Nicholas G. Bruning 2018
Walter and Elizabeth Bulling
Brenda A. Bureker 1997
Jayne Bush 1962
Caroline Cabias •
Laura Cabrera 2010
Dr. Joseph M. Cafiero 1978 and Veronica Cafiero
Cristiane S. Campelo-Hess 2022
Dr. Leonard L. Cano 1978
Maria P. Cardiff
Kathleen S. Cargo 1964
Ivonne E. Castellanos 2010
Andrew Castro
Tom and Gena Caya
Sherman E. Champen 2000
Elizabeth Chaney •
Dr. Angelina L. Chau 2007
Brandon Chen 2021
Leona Chen
Robin and Ryszard Chetkowski
Dr. Elizabeth Ching
Chipotle Mexican Grill
Dr. Randall K. Tom 1990 and
Dr. Cherri S. Choate 1990 •
Dr. Jeffrey V. Chou 1990 •
Dr. Isabelle A. Chow 2022
Patricia and Stephen Chrismer
Leon Clark •
Dr. Brian Clocksin •
Rosemarie Co 2022
Patricia Cockcroft • •

“Danielle and I endowed a scholarship because we appreciate our education at Samuel Merritt University—and want to support students and podiatric medicine. Giving appreciated stock offers tax benefits and makes our gift go further.”

- Michael Starkweather, DPM 2003, with his wife
Danielle Starkweather, BSN 2003
My nursing career was very important to me. I always wanted to be a nurse and finally started my nursing education in my mid-thirties. I created the scholarship to help students with families who are pursuing their nursing education.

- Dannie Anderson, BSN 1985

Created the Dannie and Jim Anderson Endowed Nursing Scholarship in 2023 with funding through an IRA Charitable Rollover gift.
Dr. Lowe was a legend in this area. He had such a knowledge, love, and desire to give back and keep our profession going. It was really important to him that the school and the profession continue to flourish and grow.

- Timothy Dutra, DPM 1985, Podiatry Assistant Professor

Speaking of his tribute gift in memory of Dr. William Lowe, DPM 1957.
Dr. Carolyn E. McAloon 1997
Robert and Geraldine McAnelly
Maureen D. McCarthy 2017
Patricia McCormac
Nancy J. McFarland 1961
Dr. Heather R. McGuire 2008
Laura McIntyre
Alvin and Yvonne Huggins-McLean
Pamela A. McPherson 1970
Charla J. McPherson-Wallace 2006
Lisa N. Meacham 1997
Dr. Kelly Mecham 2015
Desiree Mehrabian 1992
Catherine L. Melter 1996 and Jeffry Melter
MemorialCare Long Beach Medical Center *
Dr. Raji Menon 2000 & 2013
Yvette Mere-Cook
Dr. Clark D. Miller 1970
Ingrid E. Miller 1950
Rhonda J. Miller 1978
The Millicent A. Zaludek Revocable Living Trust *
Dr. Stephanie Mita 2016
Aileen Moffitt
Paul Monegas
Chelsea Monsada 2023
Ernest M. Moore III
Linda R. Moore 1976
Suzanne A. Moore 1961
Mary Morales
Morgan Stanley Global Impact Funding Trust
Joanne M. Morris *
Gary and Gerry Morrison *
Susan W. Moses 1964
Glenna Mote Yates
Lubor Mrazek
Dr. Shante Myers 2015 & 2022
Gale Nasser 1968
National Philanthropic Trust
Nationwide Life Insurance Company *
Pauline B. Nee 2019
Dr. Michael Negrete
Network for Good
Eric Q. Nguyen 2020
Vivie Nguyen
Oakland Zoo
Dr. Noel S. O’Brien 1966
Dennis and Mikel O’Connell
Marcia M. Ochoa 2010
Dr. Jay L. Ohsien 1960
Lauren Oliveira
Dr. Bruce A. Olson 1965
Elon and Patricia Ormsby 1964
Marina Ortega 2015 *
The O’Shea Foundation *
Julia Owens
James Pagano *
Ellen Lenok Pagliano *
Dr. and Mrs. W. D. Pagliano 1972 *
Tai H. Pang 2022
Sarah Grace H. Pangilinan 2019
Colleen Pantelis
Shefali V. Parikh 1999 *
Dr. Katrina Jawitz Di Pasqua 1990 *
Dr. Kenneth J. Passeri 1984
Dr. Divyang U. Patel 1990
Dr. Alfred A. Patino 1993 *
Marjorie G. Patzer 1960
Penny Peak, MPA *
Reina V. Pecadeso 2008
Lilia C. Pena 2009
Andrea M. Pengel 2003
Susan Penna-Falaschi
Dr. Paul R. Perchonock
Dr. Dennis R. Perry 1973 *
Judith A. Phillips 1959
Judith E. Pieper 1965
Cheryl D. Pierson-Carey 1995
Keiran Pinilli
[Celeste Villanueva] holds the bar very high and inspires you to do better than you can. She sees potential beyond what people think their means are. She also laid an important foundation to diversify the nurse anesthesia field, and we couldn’t make strides in diversity without her unwavering support for it.

- Joe Janakes, CRNA 2006
Program Director, Anesthesia Doctor of Nursing Practice

Speaking of his tribute gift to the Celeste Villanueva Endowed Scholarship Fund: Honoring Legacy.
SMU stands at the cusp of a transformative period marked by noteworthy growth and progress. With your unyielding dedication, we are primed to meet the ever-evolving demands of the healthcare workforce and address health disparities in the communities we proudly serve.

Your belief in our vision and dedication to our cause are the driving forces behind our continued success, which we are eager to build upon in 2024 and beyond.

- Dr. Ching-Hua Wang, President
RECOGNIZING OUR HEALTH IMPACT AWARDS EVENT SPONSORS

These generous companies and individuals sponsored the 2023 Health Impact Awards, celebrating the award recipients’ extraordinary contributions to society.

Kaiser Permanente

Perkins & Will

Hathaway Dinwiddie

strada Investment Group

Caroline Cabias

SMU Alumni & Associates
College of Podiatric Medicine

blue California

CREATIVE MC

HEALTH IMPACT AWARDS

Launched in 2023, the new SMU Health Impact Awards honor the outstanding, significant contributions of our SMU alumni, friends, and students to health sciences and healthcare through professional activities or community service.

To nominate someone for a 2024 Health Impact Award, email alumniaffairs@samuelmerritt.edu by May 31, 2024.