I am pleased to share that the UConn Foundation has just finished the most successful fundraising year in its history. While the independent audit of our FY 2018 numbers won’t be completed until early October, we are confidently reporting that the Foundation has reached a closing total of $82,455,225 in contributions and pledged commitments—the largest annual total in its 54-year history and a 15 percent increase compared to FY 2017.

Over the last four fiscal years, donors to the University have made commitments and gifts totaling more than $300 million, by far the best four-year period in UConn’s history. One of the highlights of FY18 is the continued support for the Transform Lives scholarship initiative, a $150 million effort to raise funds for scholarships and student support. The Foundation raised $22.3 million for the initiative in FY18 and more than $100 million since its inception in 2013.

The Foundation can also report that at the close of FY 2018, the University’s total endowment had grown from $42 million in 1995 to approximately $440 million. The Foundation disbursed $25 million in support of the University in FY 2018. Of this, $9 million was disbursed for scholarships, $5 million for faculty support and $11 million for programs and facilities.

The FY 2018’s $82.4 million in contributions and pledged commitments comes from 22,260 donors—most of whom gave less than $1,000. The Foundation’s overall donor count in FY 2018 is slightly more than the FY 2017 total. A year-over-year increase in donors hasn’t occurred since 2013 and reflects the results of a new approach, which included the launch of a Giving Day, to annual giving at the Foundation.

Principal gift donations—those of at least $1 million—are helping to drive the overall fundraising total to historic levels. The Foundation secured $37.9 million in principal gifts in FY 2018, which included a $22.5 million donation from Peter J. Werth for innovation and entrepreneurship at UConn. The value of FY 2018’s principal gifts is nearly 50 percent more than the FY 2017 total and speaks to the Foundation’s enhanced focus on these transformative gifts, having recently created a Principal Gifts department.
The largest gifts of FY 2018 are as follows:

- $22.5 million gift in support of Entrepreneurship and Innovation
- $2.8 million in support of scholarships at the School of Social Work
- $2 million in support of the College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources for undergraduate scholarships and the Connecticut Veterinary Diagnostic Lab.
- $1.5 million in support a Chair in Corporate Social Responsibility at the School of Business
- $1.3 million in support of the UConn Health Center
- $1 million in support of scholarships at the School of Dental Medicine
- $1 million to support UConn Athletics Capital Projects
- $1 million to support UConn Athletics Capital Projects

The Foundation could not achieve its success without the support and partnership of the University and the Board of Trustees. We look forward to continuing our work together and strengthening UConn one relationship at a time.