TO: Members of the Board of Trustees
FROM: John Fodor, Interim President and CEO, UConn Foundation
DATE: February 27, 2019
RE: UConn Foundation Report FY19 Q2

The Foundation is pleased to report that midyear fundraising totals are promising as we work toward securing gifts to exceed a $90-million goal for FY19. As of December 31, 2018, midyear gifts and commitments totaled $36,435,431, which represents nearly 41 percent toward our goal. With a strong pipeline of significant gifts, we expect robust third and fourth quarters.

During the second quarter, the UConn Foundation formed a search committee to fill the role of president and CEO. The committee includes current and former members of the UConn Foundation Board of Directors, University trustees, and University staff. The committee is led by Craig Ashmore ’85 (ENG), who serves as chair of the nominating and governance committee of the UConn Foundation Board of Directors, in coordination with professional search firm Isaacson Miller. The search timeline is aligned with the University’s presidential search: review of resumes for the top candidates was slated for late January and first-round interviews were slated for the first week in February.

Headway closing gifts of $1 million-plus is contributing to this year’s momentum. Of the 12 gifts of $1 million-plus that closed as of December 31, 2018, the majority (10) were made by individuals. This is a good sign that our efforts to enhance engagement with prospects at this level are effective. The pipeline for $1-million-plus gifts for the remainder of the year is strong: we expect 39 proposals totaling more than $142 million to be executed over the next six months. Among those proposals are three gifts at the $5-million-plus level that we anticipate closing by the end of the fiscal year (June 30, 2019).

The Alumni relations team had a busy fall, with events around a very successful Homecoming Weekend engaging 1,200 alumni at 22 events over three days in October. Participation in the 5K and Li’l Huskies K races continue to rise, attracting greater numbers of alumni and their families back to Storrs. Interest in the annual Legacy Breakfast for alumni families has risen so sharply that they added additional seating to accommodate doubling the attendance.

Several reunion events at the school, college, and unit levels were held in conjunction with homecoming and throughout the fall. Highlights included breaking ground on a medicinal garden at the School of Pharmacy reunion; tours of new facilities at the physical therapy class of 1997 reunion that directly led to a major gift; a curriculum experience showcasing new technology funded by Bioscience Connecticut at the Schools of Medicine and Dental Medicine joint reunion.
Several new engagement opportunities were launched, including the Law School Breakfast Brief held at law offices in Boston and Stamford and featuring UConn faculty. A new annual event for ScHOLAR2S House Learning Community kicked off in D.C., where 50 alumni gathered with 50 current students attending events surrounding the Congressional Black Caucus Annual Legislative Conference. Other events that launched in the last few years continued to show growth. For example, participation increased by 50 percent for Welcome to the Neighborhood events—bringing together alumni and recent graduates. More than 1,200 alumni (half of whom are graduates of the last decade) attended 23 such events held nationwide.

Focusing attention on donor acquisition at all levels is contributing toward momentum as well. One of our key initiatives to energize giving includes the second annual giving day (called UConn Gives), which will be held in March 2019. Building on our inaugural success, this year’s goal is to acquire 4,000 donors. Additionally, we are nearing completion of a revamped crowdfunding platform and a best-in-class website with enhanced giving capabilities.

The Foundation continues engaging alumni and donors in meaningful ways through a variety of opportunities.