Dear Roadrunner Family,

Welcome to the 2020-21 Annual Report. What a year to be part of our resilient Roadrunner community!

We want to take this opportunity to thank you for supporting Metropolitan State University of Denver and our students throughout the last year, one characterized by innovation, adaptability and perseverance. Your generosity allowed Roadrunners to continue their education during difficult times and excel in truly exceptional ways – from Cade Crader pitching a perfect game in what is believed to be the first no-hitter in MSU Denver baseball history to our debate team shining on the global stage after a nearly 15-year hiatus.

This past year, the University also launched the Office of Educational Services to provide innovative support to the pre-K-12 community across Colorado and beyond, created the Cybersecurity Center where students can stress-test cyber defense plans and hired a dynamic new provost and a dean of the College of Letters, Arts and Sciences. At the Foundation, we achieved our second-highest fundraising year on record, awarded a record number of scholarships to students, grew our endowment so we can provide more sustainable support to the University and worked with our campus partners to develop initiatives that further MSU Denver’s new strategic plan.

**MSU Denver is rising.** Rising to help Colorado thrive while recovering from the pandemic. Rising to meet the ever-changing needs of our students, our industry partners and our community. And rising to partner with our donors to find solutions that meet the challenges of today and tomorrow.

Thank you, again, for your support – we are deeply grateful.

By continuing to work together, Roadrunners will rise to meet each new goal we set and reimagine a future where anything is possible!

With gratitude,
Christine Márquez-Hudson | Executive Director, MSU Denver Foundation, Inc.
Ferd Belz | Chair, MSU Denver Foundation, Inc.

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**MSU Denver Foundation Financials**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>June 30, 2021</th>
<th>Statement of Financial Position</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>Liabilities</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Cash and cash equivalents $1,863,025</td>
<td><strong>$765,831</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Receivables $2,911,502</td>
<td>Net Assets</td>
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<td>Prepaid expenses $21,618</td>
<td>Without donor restrictions $7,857,133</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investments, at market value $33,378,661</td>
<td>With donor restrictions $30,886,644</td>
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<td>Fixed assets, net of depreciation $1,334,802</td>
<td>Total Net Assets $38,743,777</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Assets</strong> $39,509,608</td>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</strong> $39,509,608</td>
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The MSU Denver Foundation is in a very healthy financial position seeing 151% growth of Total Net Assets in the last five years.

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**MSU Denver Foundation Statement of Activities**

- Expenses $7.35M
  - 65% — Support provided to University
  - 27% — Donor development costs
  - 8% — General and administrative costs
  - 45% — Contributions and grants
  - 38% — Net investment return
  - 13% — In-kind contributions
  - 2% — Endowment management fees
  - 2% — Other income, net

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**Support and Revenue $15.1M**

**FY 20-21**

**JULY 1, 2020 — JUNE 30, 2021**
“Aviation, to me, means freedom and peace. When you are up high, you can look down on the world, the landscape, the clouds and the sky, feeling free. It also connects people, allowing us to quickly transport goods or travel to far away countries where we can learn to understand and get along with other people and cultures, creating peace. It is my hope and dream to make flying more accessible and less expensive – to make it available to those who want to be able to do it so that they can bring the world together.”

Dagmar Kress
MSU Denver Affiliate Faculty
Coach, MSU Denver Aerobatics and Glider Club
“When I came to MSU Denver, I chose the Event Planning and Meeting Management major because I enjoy making all events special and spearheading each one flawlessly. I also love to network and have joined as many event associations as possible to understand the industry and future trends better. As the president of the University’s student chapter of the Professional Convention Management Association and International Association of Exhibitions and Events for the last two years, I have overseen the launch of an umbrella student chapter called the MSU Denver Event Association and another event association called Meeting Professionals International. Additionally, I am the student liaison for the Network of Executive Women in Hospitality.

By the time graduation comes around, I hope I have a position secured that allows me to be creative and thrive in an atmosphere of like-minded event planners. This scholarship is helping me secure my dream of completing school, having the career I have always wanted and providing my fourteen-year-old daughter with the life she deserves.”

Sheena Ortiz
Junior
Event Planning and Meeting Management
Mug Club Endowed Scholarship Recipient

Alumni joined us from Massachusetts, Tennessee, Virginia, New Mexico, Arizona, California and Washington and even British Columbia, Canada.

We implemented the Roadrunners Across Colorado Challenge to celebrate Colfax Marathon Weekend after the event’s original May date was canceled due to Covid-19 restrictions. We thought it would be fun to invite Roadrunners worldwide to virtually “travel” 570 miles across Colorado to raise money for the Student Emergency Fund. Participants logged the distances they ran, walked, biked or hiked in our tracking system to count toward the total mileage, all while supporting students in need at MSU Denver.

Brandi Rideout
Director of Alumni Relations

48 Participants
620 Miles Traveled
$3,000 Raised for the Student Emergency Fund

For additional details:
Feb. 18 — Mariachi Fest | ahec.universitytickets.com
Feb. 24 — Edges | msudenver.edu/theatre-dance/theatre/productions-events
Visit msudenver.edu/mugclub to learn more and join the Mug Club today!
When alumna Charisma Martinez began working for the Department of Nutrition in 2019, the 2017 Human Nutrition & Dietetics graduate knew students had a great need for support while completing their educational journey. Martinez saw an opportunity to raise money to support students as a Day of Giving Social Media Advocate. She connected with colleagues, encouraging them to spread the word about the March 2021 crowdfunding opportunity using templates she provided. Her efforts were rewarded when the event raised more than $11,000 in one day – including a significant gift from an anonymous donor – funding $1,000 scholarships for each of the 12 nutrition internship participants at MSU Denver.

866 donors gave a total of $207,704

Presidential Internship in Public Service
59 donors

Student Emergency Fund
73 donors

55 donors

Roadrunners Food Pantry
306 donors

Roadrunners Athletics Giving Challenge

For additional details:
Rachel B. Noel Distinguished Visiting Professorship | msudenver.edu/noel-professorship
March 10 — Annual Scholarship Celebration | msudenver.edu/scholarship-celebration
March 31 — MSU Denver Day of Giving | msudenver.edu/giving/day-of-giving
## Mosaic Scholarship

For 16 years, a group of professional women has been meeting for a monthly book club. No strangers to serious discussions, they challenged one another to become agents of change following the death of George Floyd and their reading of “How to Be an Antiracist.” With Amy Staggs and Sybil Kisken as administrators, the group decided MSU Denver was the right place for taking action.

“We love the idea of supporting a local public university with a diverse student body and a great reputation,” says Kisken.

After agreeing on scholarship criteria and soliciting funds from everyone they knew, the group created the Mosaic Annual Scholarship, which will provide tuition support and networking opportunities for students from diverse and underrepresented backgrounds.

“Because tuition is affordable, a smaller gift can make a big impact at MSU Denver,” says Staggs. “Any group can get together and make a difference for the students.”

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**For additional details:**
- April 1 — BFA Thesis Show Opening | msudenver.edu/cva
- April 14 — Alumni Networking Meetup | msudenver.edu/alumni
- April 14 — Intimate Apparel | msudenver.edu/theatre-dance/theatre/productions-events

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People don’t go to MSU Denver because it’s expected; they make the decision that they want to go, knowing they will face struggles. When I was a Roadrunner, a lot of hard work and luck went into my success. Luck is when someone reaches down a hand – like the scholarship I received and the unending support from faculty and staff who weren’t going to let me fail. I want to create that kind of luck for someone else.

It’s exciting to finally feel comfortable enough to be the one giving a hand up to somebody – it’s my way of investing in people and a positive society. I believe in the value of education, not only for your career and economic standing, but for personal growth – it makes for better citizens, a better workforce and a better way of life.

Henry Skinner ’84
Donor, Student Emergency Fund, Food Pantry & DREAMer Emergency Fund
Thank you for providing other MSU Denver students and me with a chance to reach goals that sometimes seem unachievable and out of reach because of our financial situation. This scholarship takes an immense weight off my and my family’s shoulders. I am truly very, very, VERY grateful to have been chosen. I promise this scholarship will significantly impact me and the families I hope to help financially succeed once I begin my finance/accounting career in the near future.

Cesar Silva
Junior, Accounting
Russell G Noles Endowment Recipient

Through the generous support of our donors, MSU Denver Foundation’s support to the University reached an annual historical high of almost $5 million and provided 1,036 scholarships to students.
**Community service is the name of the game for Roadrunners Athletics**

by Rob White

While Roadrunners continue to experience success on the field and in the classroom, they have also become champions of another sort – in the pursuit of helping others.

“Our student athletes, coaches and staff have come together to help our community during this critical time in our history,” said Todd Thurman, MSU Denver’s Director of Athletics. “We’re proud of what we’re doing, but we’re also humbled by the opportunity and the experience. Our student-athletes are learning about more than sports and academics. They are learning what it means to serve and show leadership. And we’re only just getting started.”

During 2020-21, MSU Denver student-athletes spent 1,408 hours in community service, with an economic impact of $40,189. Women’s softball led the pack, volunteering 249 hours, with volleyball (240) and men’s and women’s tennis (191) close behind.

Among the groups supported by Roadrunners were Food for Thought, A Precious Child, the Denver Public Library and the Denver Food Bank. Student-athletes packed PowerSacks for Food for Thought, put together 187 hygiene kits for A Precious Child and logged a combined total of over 200 hours reading to children with the Denver Public Library’s Read Aloud program.

In recognition of its dedication to community service, Roadrunners Athletics was selected as a national finalist for the 2021 NCAA Division II Award of Excellence and the 2021 Downtown Denver Partnership Award.

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**JUNE**

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*We are fortunate to receive the support we do from our entire Roadrunner Softball family, including fans and alumni, staff and faculty, current players and their families, family members of former players and the larger community. Those positive relationships build pride in our program and significantly impact our student-athletes, ensuring they have a well-rounded student experience and access to the resources they need to become future leaders in our community. We hope to leave a lasting impression through those connections, showing everyone how Roadrunners Athletics and the student-athlete experience elevates and positively impacts MSU Denver.*

*Annie Van Wetzinga*  
*Head Softball Coach*

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**For additional details:**  
June 3 — Roadrunners Athletics Auction | roadrunnersathletics.com/auction
Throughout 38 years of professional work in higher education, my husband and I came to realize and appreciate the number of obstacles that exist between students and degree completion. “Life” happens, and sometimes the dream of earning a university degree becomes financially difficult.

The Kinnie Family Trust Degree Completion Scholarships for Veterans and the Kinnie Family Trust Degree Completion for students with a history of domestic violence are intended to assist senior-year students with the greatest level of financial need by providing them with funds for tuition, books and fees so they can obtain their degrees.

We hope the impact of our family’s gift results in these students realizing their dreams of a meaningful career and success in their personal lives.”

Ruth (Kinnie) Jordan and Stephen M. Jordan, Ph.D.
Former First Lady and President, MSU Denver
“Since partnering with MSU Denver in 2015, my father/business partner and I have been impressed by the motivation and commitment of every intern and senior project student we have hosted, and they have all gone on to successful careers in aerospace. When my father died following a fast and furious bout with gastric cancer, our family wanted to honor his life and legacy. Today, and in perpetuity, there will be an opportunity at the University for a first-generation college student to pursue their dreams of becoming an engineer, physicist and/or mathematician. We are very proud, and I know my father is smiling from Heaven.”

Genah Murphy Burditt
Partner & COO, EyasSat LLC
Gerald B. Murphy Memorial Endowment

For additional details:
Aug. 18 — MSU Denver Convocation | msudenver.edu/convocation
For the last 20 years, the Reisher Scholars Program invested more than $5 million in the future of over 300 exceptional scholars at Metropolitan State University of Denver, giving them the freedom to earn an undergraduate degree without the burden of additional debt.

Founders Roger and Margaret Reisher were first-generation college students who appreciated how higher education improved their lives and success as the founder of FirstBank. Inspired to help others pursuing a college degree, they established the Reisher Scholars Program. Launched at MSU Denver and the University of Northern Colorado in 2001, the program has grown to serve seven public universities across Colorado.

Reisher Scholarships offer college sophomores and community college transfer students who meet eligibility requirements the opportunity to complete their education debt-free.

Special events and activities are being planned throughout the 2021-22 academic year to celebrate this milestone anniversary, including a trip to the Denver Art Museum, a Homecoming scholarship event, the annual Reisher dinner and more.

**Average GPA of Reisher Scholars**

3.65

61 scholars currently attending MSU Denver

86% graduation rate

Since 2001, MSU Denver has funded over 300 scholarships providing between $4,000-11,000 per student each year.

For additional details:

Richard T. and Virginia M. Castro Distinguished Visiting Professorship | msudenver.edu/castro-professorship

Sept. 26-Oct. 2 — Homecoming | msudenver.edu/homecoming
When friend, colleague and fellow MSU Denver alumnus Matt Campbell (B.A. Speech Communications, ‘03) passed away in August 2019, Matt Maley wanted to ensure Campbell’s memory and legacy lived on. “I wanted to celebrate Campbell and keep his name from dying with him,” says Maley, a 2006 Marketing graduate and principal at Alliance Investments.

Maley established the Matthew P. Campbell Future Marketing Professionals Endowment to provide students majoring in Marketing or Communication Studies with tuition assistance. He also spearheaded fundraising efforts, including hosting a memorial concert to celebrate his friend’s life, influence and passion. The community Campbell loved has raised over $50,000, transforming an annual scholarship into an endowed scholarship, allowing his name to live on in perpetuity at MSU Denver.

“With this scholarship, Campbell will continue to facilitate introductions between up-and-coming students and their future employer or colleague,” Maley says, “just like he did throughout his life.”

**Socktober: 2020 Impact**

307 donors

$15,631 raised in support of the Student Emergency Fund, DREAMer Emergency Fund and Food Pantry combined

644 pairs of socks donated

**Annual Alumni Awards Brunch**

1

**Yom Kippur**

Begins

Ends

**Indigenous People’s Day**

**Diwali**

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For additional details:

Oct. 1 — Annual Alumni Awards Brunch | msudenver.edu/alumni
Oct. 10 — Indigenous People’s Day | msudenver.edu/diversity/land-acknowledgment
Million-dollar surprise
An unexpected estate gift allows Roadrunners to reimagine the future of science.

When James Patton (B.S. Biology, ’84) passed away on March 30, 2020, he bequeathed his Colorado assets – totaling an estimated $1.5 million – to the Metropolitan State University of Denver science department, ensuring his legacy would live on through his Roadrunner family as the largest realized estate gift from an alumnus.

The great-grandson of slaves relocated from Tennessee to eastern Texas, Patton was raised in Jefferson, Texas. He enlisted in the U.S. Army after high school and served as a member of the Military Police Corps in Vietnam, receiving a Bronze Star. After returning to civilian life, Patton graduated from MSU Denver and worked for Coors Brewing Company in Golden, Colorado. Patton was proud to have attended MSU Denver and grateful for the life it afforded him.

Now, Patton’s memory will live in perpetuity at MSU Denver through the James A. Patton ’84 Endowment for the Sciences. The endowment will fund the Patton Scholars, providing underrepresented students with research and employment opportunities in the science department.

“Students will become instructional assistants in introductory courses, supporting student success,” says Sheryl Zajdowicz, Ph.D., chair of the Department of Biology.

In addition to sharing their knowledge, scholars will build a community where they can develop leadership skills, expand their scientific skillsets and prepare for the future with professional development.

“This will be a transformational opportunity for students,” says Andrew Bonham, Ph.D., chair of the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry. “It will give them a vision for their future.”

NOVEMBER

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Jump start your year-end philanthropy by making a gift on #RoadrunnerTuesday
Please make end of year gifts online at: msudenver.edu/giving

In order to receive a 2022 tax receipt for your gift:
• Mailed checks must be postmarked in 2022.
• Stocks, bonds and other marketable securities must be in the possession of Syntrinisc, our investment manager, on or before Dec. 31.
• EFT/Wire Transfers must be received at UMB Bank on or before Dec. 31.

If you have questions or need additional information about making an end of year gift, please call 303-615-0055 and your message will be promptly returned.

Thank you for your generosity and continued support of MSU Denver!