MSU Denver Foundation

2025-26 Annual Report and Campaign Impact Report



METROPOLITAN STATE UNIVERSITY℠ OF DENVER

ROADRUNNERS RISE AT MSU DENVER

Dear Roadrunner Family,

Five years ago, when we embarked on *Roadrunners Rise*, MSU Denver's first-ever comprehensive campaign, a successful conclusion seemed like a distant dream. And yet, here we are! This community truly stepped up for MSU Denver, its students and its mission. Together, we raised nearly **$117.5M**, exceeding our goal of $100M. **From the bottom of our hearts, thank you!**

In the enclosed 2025-26 Annual Report, you will read about the impact of your giving, the students whose lives you changed forever and the new opportunities you made possible. We are currently constructing MSU Denver's first student residential community, **Summit House**, with the capacity to house 550 students. Located in the heart of campus, it will also feature the new **Kemper Classroom to Career Hub**, making career exploration and work experiences accessible to *all* students. We are also building the **Gina and Frank Day Health Institute Tower**, expanding access to state-of-the-art learning spaces and increasing capacity in our health-related programs. Roadrunners Rise also focused on raising funds for scholarships, student services, academic programs and endowed funds to ensure access and long-term sustainability.

On behalf of the Foundation Board of Directors, Campaign Steering Committee and our team, thank you for helping Roadrunners Rise!

Thank you!

Christine Márquez-Hudson
President and CEO of the MSU Denver Foundation

Ruth Rohs
Chair of the MSU Denver Foundation



PICTURED: Ruth Rohs and Christine Márquez-Hudson at the Roadrunners Rise campaign celebration.

PHOTO: Alyson McClaran '16

FY26 Financials

$26,641,908
Dollars Raised
The most raised in a single fiscal year

5,167
Total Donors

12,066
Total Gifts

$37.16M
Endowment Value

$81.94M
Total Net Assets

FY26 totals above are unaudited

ROADRUNNERS RISE CAMPAIGN

“ This campaign did not just raise funds; it **EXPANDED ACCESS**, it **STRENGTHENED PROGRAMS**, it **BUILT FACILITIES**, it **CREATED PARTNERSHIPS**, it **REIMAGINED POSSIBLE** for us and for our students. The momentum that we have built, the belief that we’ve created, the community that we have strengthened — that is what will carry us forward. ”

Janine Davidson, Ph.D.
MSU Denver President

Scan the QR code or visit msudenver.me/fy26-rise to learn more.

$100,000,000
Campaign goal

$117,472,521
Total dollars raised

15,174
Total donors

59,708
Total gifts

$80,853,783
Anticipated impact on the University

PICTURED: President Janine Davidson, Ph.D. (center), Leon Duran, ‘15 & ‘22 (left), and Jameer Fitch, ‘20 & ‘23 (right).

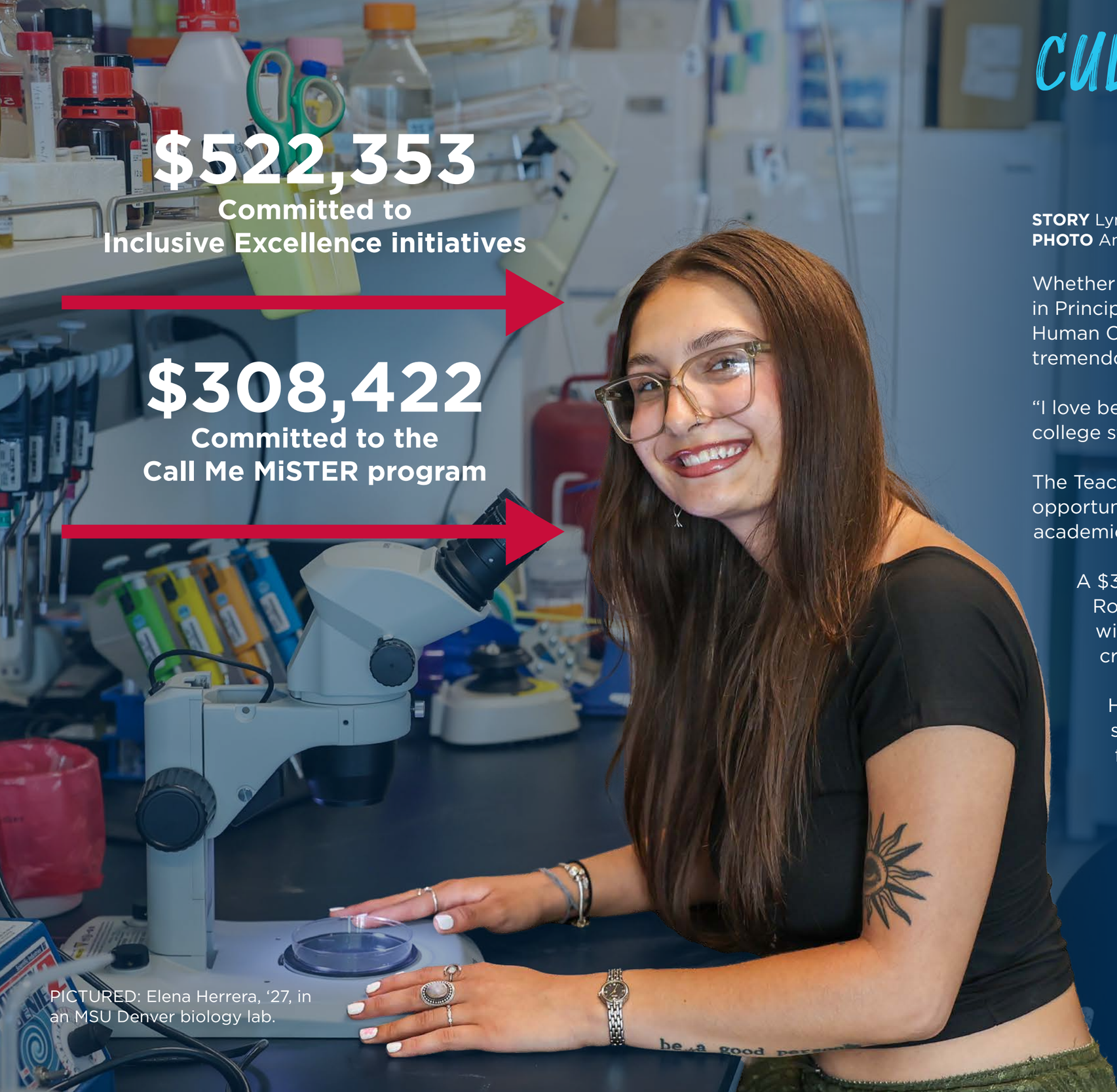
PHOTO: Alyson McClaran ‘16

Roadrunners Rise campaign totals are from 2022-2026

CULTIVATING INCLUSIVE EXCELLENCE

$522,353
Committed to Inclusive Excellence initiatives

$308,422
Committed to the Call Me MiSTER program



PICTURED: Elena Herrera, ‘27, in an MSU Denver biology lab.

STORY Lynne Winter ‘17
PHOTO Andy Schlichting

Whether guiding fellow MSU Denver students through formulas in Principles of Chemistry or dissecting bodies in the Advanced Human Cadaver Anatomy lab, Elena Herrera has found, and given, tremendous value as a teaching assistant.

“I love being a TA,” said the Biology major and first-generation college student.

The Teaching Assistant Program has offered students opportunities to gain hands-on teaching experience, providing academic help to nearly 19,000 students since its launch in 2020.

A $30,000 gift from Christy and Ferd Belz that boosted the Roadrunners Rise campaign beyond its $100 million goal will also allow the TA program to reach more students at critical points.

Herrera knows TAs make a meaningful difference, with students often being more comfortable asking for support from a peer than a professor. The benefits for Herrera include building communication and teamwork skills, preparing her for a future in medicine caring for others.

“Everything I’ve learned during my time at MSU Denver has prepared me to do just that.”

Scan the QR code or visit msudenver.me/fy26-excellence to read more.

ADDRESSING COLORADO'S TALENT PIPELINE

STORY Lynne Winter '17
PHOTO Andy Schlichting

As part of MSU Denver's Health Scholar Program, Dihemah Gardner found belonging, community and the financial support critical to staying on track to earn her degree.

"I am more confident in myself," said the Health Care Management major, who wants to work as a case manager in a homeless shelter. "I see the connection between my education and my career goals."

The Colorado Access Foundation's recent $750,000 grant expands the capacity of the Gina and Frank Day Health Institute to scale and sustain the Health Scholar Program, advancing the University's mission to build a diverse and culturally responsive healthcare workforce made up of students like Gardner.

With opportunities to network, build relationships and develop professional skills, Gardner is one step closer to guiding families through complex systems so they can build sustainable lives.

"I want to be the person who helps families see that homelessness does not have to define their future," she said. "The support from Colorado Access is helping me work toward becoming that person."

Scan the QR code or visit msudenver.me/fy26-pipeline to read more.

$34,494,739
Committed to Talent Pipeline initiatives

$24,815,072
Committed to the Day Health Insitute

$2,493,000
To establish the FHLBank Topeka Affordable Housing Institute

PICTURED: Dihemah Gardner, '28

CREATING CLASSROOM TO CAREER PATHWAYS

STORY Lynne Winter ‘17
PHOTO Alyson McClaran ‘16

MSU Denver’s Classroom to Career Hub has provided Sanaa Walker with the tools to navigate college since high school, from summer bridge programs and personalized degree planning to graduate school advising, resume reviews and interview preparation that led to on-campus jobs.

A transformational $3 million commitment to the C2 Hub by UMB Bank and its charitable foundations, including the Kemper Family Foundations, will help centralize those services, and more, on the second floor of a new 12-story building. In recognition, the C2 Hub has been renamed the Kemper Classroom to Career Hub. Starting in 2027, Walker will be among the 18,000-plus MSU Denver students and 11,000 Community College of Denver students served by the C2 Hub annually.

“Many students don’t know about the C2 Hub, and it’s sad,” Walker said. “With the new building, we’ll be able to push it to the forefront and say, ‘Hey, we’re here. We have the resources you’re looking for!”

Scan the QR code or visit msudenver.me/fy26-c2hub to read more.

$6,052,189
Committed to Classroom to Career Pathways initiatives

$5,450,250
To build the Kemper Classroom to Career Hub

PICTURED: Sanaa Walker, ‘28, sitting outside the Jordan Student Success Building.

$45,071,375
Committed to Student Success initiatives

127
New scholarships created

$15,710,555
Scholarship dollars awarded to students

3,209
Students awarded scholarships

PICTURED: A Reisher Scholar at Fall 2025 Commencement.

FACILITATING STUDENT SUCCESS

STORY Lynne Winter ‘17
PHOTO Alyson McClaran ‘16

The cost of a college education at MSU Denver is becoming more affordable for incoming students like Ashley Rosado, thanks to the MSU Denver Connect Scholarship.

A graduate of Denver Public Schools, Rosado chose the University for its proximity to home, recommendations from friends and the opportunities available to students – the scholarship was the cherry on top.

“It was great to obtain that,” said Rosado, an International Business major. “Extra money never hurts, especially for college.”

The MSU Denver Connect Scholarship is just one of the funds benefiting from a $3.25 million grant from the Reisher Scholars Program at The Denver Foundation. Over the next two years, the grant will also bolster the University’s student-teaching scholarships and retention and completion grants.

With the support of her scholarship, Rosado is excited to check out campus, dig into classwork and, most importantly, use the experience to continue encouraging her younger brother to go to college.

“It’s a hard journey, but there is always something to gain from the decisions you make.”

Scan the QR code or visit msudenver.me/fy26-success to read more.

7,366
Alumni donors

60,521
Engaged alumni

34,971
Alumni gifts

ROADRUNNER PRIDE IN ACTION

STORY Lynne Winter '17
PHOTO Alumni Association

The Roadrunners Rise campaign confirmed something we always knew: MSU Denver alumni want to get involved, give back and create opportunities for future generations of Roadrunners.

Over the last five years, alumni engagement has grown to more than 17,000 annually, with alumni stepping forward as mentors, advocates, volunteers and donors.

"It is a powerful reflection of what it means to stay connected to MSU Denver and one another," said Amber Mozet, a 2006 alumna and president of the MSU Denver Alumni Association board.

Throughout the campaign, alumni contributed over $1 million each year to scholarships, programs, wraparound services and more. Their generosity ensures current and future students have the resources to earn their degrees and join an alumni community more than 115,000 Roadrunners strong.

"The strength of our Roadrunner spirit has helped fuel something bigger than any milestone," said Mozet.

"For years, we've said that MSU Denver runs this city. Now, there is no question."

Scan the QR code or visit msudenver.me/fy26-pride to read more.

PICTURED: A group of MSU Denver alumni at the Roadrunner Roadshow event in Boston.

10,154
First-time donors to MSU Denver

85%
Of all campaign gifts were $100 or less

$2,318,810
Committed to Roadrunners Athletics

LIVING. LEARNING. THRIVING.

STORY Lynne Winter ‘17
PHOTO Amanda Schwengel

When Summit House opens its doors to welcome students for the fall 2027 semester, it will offer them an opportunity to connect with their campus community like never before in MSU Denver history.

The innovative 12-story space will serve as the hub for the University’s first residence hall and the Kemper Classroom to Career Hub, bringing student living, learning and career readiness under one roof.

“This is really the beginning of a transformation,” said MSU Denver President Janine Davidson, Ph.D. “This is a huge step for this University.”

Research shows that living on campus results in students being more likely to: earn higher GPAs; persist and graduate; build meaningful relationships with faculty and staff; and develop stronger interpersonal and communication skills.

Bolstered by generous philanthropic support, including a $10 million anonymous gift, Summit House promises to be key in MSU Denver’s mission to make higher education more accessible and support students’ academic and personal success.

Scan the QR code or visit msudenver.me/fy26-thriving to read more.

PICTURED: Carolyn McGary, assistant professor and director of Construction Project Management, chatting with her student Kimberly DeSantiago during Summit House construction.

AN EPIC PLAN

STORY Lynne Winter ‘17
PHOTO Andy Schlichting

When Rebeca Saavedra graduates in spring 2027, it will mark the culmination of a hard-fought, six-year journey. Along the way, she found support through MSU Denver’s Epic Scholars program, which serves independent students, including those who were emancipated, unaccompanied and/or formerly in foster care.

“I found Epic when I was about to drop out,” said the first-generation student and Criminal Justice and Criminology major. “I really needed that support.”

Now, thanks to a generous planned gift from alumnus Elliott Morgan and his husband, Doug Earhart, future MSU Denver students like Saavedra will be empowered to achieve their dreams through higher education. Upon their passing, their entire estate will be bequeathed to MSU Denver, providing ongoing funding for the Epic Scholars program that will expand its reach and impact.

Saavedra’s future plans include attending law school and working in criminal law, and nothing will stop her.

“I don’t care if it takes five, 10 more years. Dreams don’t expire.”

Scan the QR code or visit msudenver.me/fy26-epic to read more.

$35,205,671
Total planned gift value

147
Total planned gifts

PICTURED: Rebeca Saavedra, ‘28, standing in front of the MSU Denver Honors Program building in 9th Street Park on campus.

METROPOLITAN STATE UNIVERSITY℠ OF DENVER

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<<City>>, <<State>> <<Zip>>

We have over

117 million

reasons to

THANK YOU!

ROADRUNNERS RISE AT MSU DENVER