




UNIVERSITY of
NORTH CAROLINA
WILMINGTON

CAMPAIGN IMPACT REPORT



Our university is truly like no other, and as a donor, you know this well. For some, it's the salty air of our coastal campus. For others, it's the bonds formed in our classrooms and community. Every unique experience is shaped by your incredible generosity.

This impact report offers a glimpse into the life-changing opportunities your support has created. As a state institution, philanthropy transforms a great education into an extraordinary experience like no other. Thank you for leading the way in this historic campaign.

Nine years ago, we set an ambitious goal to raise \$100 million for students, faculty, programs and facilities. Despite facing two hurricanes and a global pandemic, your collective efforts helped us soar past that goal, raising over \$136 million—incredible!

As you flip through this report, you'll discover more than just facts and figures. While those accomplishments are notable, it's the stories of transformation that truly define our success.

Here's to soaring higher, together!

With gratitude,

Eddie Stuart '05M
Vice Chancellor,
University Advancement



DRIVING CHANGE

Imagine the challenge of adjusting to college life in a country where you don't know the native language, all while your father and brother are at war.

This was the reality for a fellow Seahawk student from Ukraine, whom I mentored through the UNCW English Language Center Partner Program. The experience was often emotional and stressful, but it taught me a profound lesson: teaching starts with trust.

I've always been interested in other cultures and making a difference, so teaching English as a second language has been a natural fit. The support from UNCW professors has been incredible. They have gone the extra mile to help me find opportunities to enrich my studies. Last year, I created a podcast with Yemeni students, and this year, I am volunteering with the Cape Fear Literacy Council.

With support from an applied learning award, I also pursued a certification as an ESL tutor and began teaching a class of adult learners. The significance of this work extends beyond its immediate impact on individuals. By breaking the cycle of illiteracy and fostering family education, **I'm helping to address broader local, state and national challenges associated with literacy.**

Your support has helped to create these life-changing opportunities for students like me and the communities we serve. Being a resource and providing for others is a value that I hold dear, and I'm committed to paying it forward.

Mackenzie Murphy '25

International Studies major, English as a Second Language (ESL) minor
Seahawk International Impact Award recipient



TURNING PASSION INTO ACTION

“ The impact of plastic pollution on endangered sea turtles, my favorite animal, has weighed on my heart ever since middle school, driving me to dedicate my life to marine conservation.

Thanks to UNCW, I've been able to turn my passion into action. Through the Center for Marine Science, I connected with the NC Sea Grant program, where environmental education isn't just taught, it's lived. Next summer, I'll begin an internship as a NOAA Hollings Scholar—a national award that will give me the chance to explore future careers and make professional connections. I owe a debt of gratitude to the Honors College and CSURF, whose workshops guided me through the application process.

You might be surprised to learn that UNCW wasn't initially my first choice. However, the uncertainty I once had quickly transformed into a deep sense of belonging. My scholarship has allowed me to fully immerse myself in my studies and extracurriculars like Women's Club Soccer, SGA and Delta Zeta sorority. As a first-generation college student, I have learned a lot about the power of community.

The opportunities at UNCW have been nothing short of transformative, and I am committed to giving back.”

Rochelle David '26

Marine Biology major

Yousry Sayed Diversity Scholarship Endowment recipient

9,184

undergraduates
conducted some form
of research during
the campaign

STRENGTHENING THE SEAHAWK SPIRIT

I remember the excitement when Seahawks Give finally kicked off. I made my donation, texted my teammates, and we spread the word across our social media platforms. We constantly watched the live donation tracker, comparing the swim team's progress with other UNCW sports teams.

In just 24 hours, UNCW received over half a million dollars in support—with the swim and dive team on the athletics leaderboard for the most donors. This outpouring of generosity is a testament to our team's culture and the unwavering backing of our family, friends and fans.

Your support is also what keeps me motivated, especially as a scholarship recipient. During the season, I dedicate 20 hours a week to practice while balancing schoolwork and volunteer opportunities. Being a collegiate athlete, especially from out-of-state, could easily feel isolating. Yet, from the moment I was a potential recruit, I have always felt welcomed and supported at UNCW. Now I'm about to start my senior year with three consecutive CAA championship team titles!

Your continued support means the world to us, and I look forward to seeing you in the stands!

Aidan Duffy '25
Coastal Engineering major
Waves of Wilmington Swim Team Endowed Scholarship recipient

IMPACT by the NUMBERS:

24 CAA championship titles fueled by

\$24.2M

in support for UNCW Athletics

1,100

student-athletes supported during the campaign

21 athletic facility upgrades and enhancements



SEAHAWKS GIVE LIKE NO OTHER

For over a decade, UNCW has harnessed the collective power of philanthropy through its annual Giving Days. These 24-hour challenges, now known as Seahawks Give, became a cornerstone of the campaign. Alumni, employees, friends and students rally together to support the people and programs that make our university like no other.

This annual spring tradition has resulted in more than \$2.2 million in support, but its impact extends far beyond the financial contributions. Year after year, UNCW's sense of community and school spirit grows stronger as Seahawks unite with a common purpose. We especially love seeing students actively engaged in all the fun—from campaigning for support for their organizations to writing thank you notes to donors to making their first gift to the university.

Thank you for leading by example and inspiring the next generation to get involved.



4,710



first-time donors

\$2M
collectively
raised

2,433 engagements
on social media



PREPARING FOR THE GLOBAL WORKFORCE

“ My freshman year, I struggled to find my place at UNCW and considered transferring. I reluctantly took my parents’ advice to join a club and became a student ambassador. This group reignited my school spirit, helped me make great friends and grow personally and professionally. I even became the membership chair to help others find their place.

After finding my footing, I joined the Prague Consulting program in the Cameron School of Business. Alongside thirty other students, I worked on an entry strategy for a company looking to expand into the South American market, and we presented our findings to the company’s C-suite. This experience boosted my confidence and led to a mentorship with Dr. Ethan Watson and a new roommate.

In summer 2023, I studied abroad in London with Dr. Watson, taking a finance class and visiting institutions like Goldman Sachs and the CFA Institute. These connections helped me secure a 10-week summer internship with Marsh McLennan in Houston.

The friendships I have forged, the faculty mentorship I’ve received and the countless opportunities donors like you make possible have all pushed me to be my best.”

Caroline Ritter ’24
Finance major



UNCW offers more than
1,000
education abroad
programs in over
50 countries



CREATING HEALTHIER COMMUNITIES TOGETHER

“Delivering the news of a death in a language I barely speak. Convincing a heart attack patient to leave her dogs to get care. No lecture or textbook could prepare me for these real-life moments.

This is exactly how I wanted to learn about healthcare, and UNCW provided the resources I needed. Thankfully, with the support of my scholarship donors and the encouragement from my professors in the College of Health and Human Services, I became a nationally-certified paramedic while pursuing my bachelor’s degree in public health.

Growing up in a rural North Carolina tobacco town, pursuing anything beyond a manual labor job felt out of reach—but UNCW saw my potential. My scholarships provided financial stability and gave me confidence to balance academics, extracurricular activities and a job. My experiences as a paramedic are not just resume boosters; they are a window into who we are as a society, the healthcare system we strive to improve, and the unique individuals we aim to give a better life.

Thank you for believing in me and supporting the future of healthcare.”

Ben Woodard '24, Public Health major
New Hanover-Pender Medical Scholarship Endowment recipient
The UNCW SEEDS Scholarship in Health Science recipient



North Carolina, like every state, is facing a healthcare workforce crisis — which was only made worse by the COVID-19 pandemic. However, through the collective efforts of our community, healthcare providers and donors, we are redefining healthcare access and education in our region.

Since the start of *Like No Other: The Campaign for UNCW*:

60% increase in students enrolled in the College of Health and Human Services

4 new degree programs established

(Doctor of Nursing Practice, Master of Science in Athletic Training, Master of Healthcare Administration, Bachelor of Science in Respiratory Therapy)

More than **15,555**

hands-on learning experiences (including internships, clinical and field placements, simulations and community engaged learning)



**LIKE NO
OTHER.**
The Campaign for UNCW

\$136,766,072
raised



86% of ALL campaign
gifts less than \$250

Start date: July 1, 2015
End date: June 30, 2024

Initial Goal: **\$100M**
(met September 2022)

Where donors designated their dollars:

- 28% University-wide support funds
- 18% Athletics
- 17% College of Science and Engineering
- 16% College of Health and Human Services
- 15% Cameron School of Business
- 3% College of Humanities, Social Sciences, and the Arts
- 2% Watson College of Education
- 1% Unrestricted support funds

Stretch Goal: **\$125M**
(met January 2024)



Over \$60M in
support for students

Endowment growth:
\$86M to \$162M



Total number of donors: **37,569** (41% alumni)

UNCW is an EEO/AA institution. Questions regarding UNCW's Title IX compliance should be directed to TitleIX@uncw.edu.





THANK YOU!



Since the campaign began in 2015, UNCW has experienced remarkable growth in enrollment, innovative program development, new construction and national rankings. Your unwavering support, combined with the tireless dedication of our faculty and staff, has been instrumental in achieving these milestones. I also want to acknowledge my predecessor, Dr. Jose Z. Sartarelli, whose visionary leadership set the stage for this ambitious campaign. Each of you has contributed to the firm foundation upon which UNCW stands today.

Your commitment to our mission has already made a profound impact on our campus and in our community. We are deeply grateful for your contributions to scholarships, academic programs, research, applied learning experiences, athletics, the arts and so much more.

As we look to the future, I hope you take immense pride in knowing that your generosity has empowered UNCW to elevate the student experience to unprecedented heights

Together, we will continue to soar.

Yours in appreciation,

Aswani K. Volety
Chancellor



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The Campaign for UNCW

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