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UNH Hits the Halfway Mark in Capital Campaign

By [Kim Billings](#)
UNH News Bureau

DURHAM, N.H. , The University of New Hampshire's capital campaign, *The Next Horizon: The Campaign for the University of New Hampshire*, has reached the halfway mark.

As of last week, more than \$50 million had been contributed to the most ambitious capital campaign in UNH's history, and what is being called the most ambitious public campaign in the history of the state of New Hampshire.

"Reaching the halfway mark of \$50 million is a tremendous milestone in this campaign. It gives us energy for all the work in the months to come," says UNH President Joan Leitzel. "This five-year campaign is still very young and we need everyone's help, but the momentum has been outstanding."

Young P. Dawkins, III, president of the UNH Foundation, and major gift officers are traveling around the country meeting with donors. "It's not just about having your name on a building, or on a room, or on an endowed chair in the space sciences," Dawkins says. "It's about the future of public education in New Hampshire and what it can mean for the next generations of scholars and learners."

And, Dawkins adds, it takes all kinds of gifts. "They all count," he emphasizes. From an amazing \$10 million gift to fund UNH's marine sciences; gifts from New Hampshire-based foundations that support renovations at the UNH-Manchester library located in the old Amoskeag Mills; a "thank you" gift to the Whittemore School of Business and Economics Scholarship Fund from two recent alums on the occasion of their wedding; and corporate support such as a recent \$175,000 gift from Simplex Technologies, to support

the Center for Coastal and Ocean Mapping.

"Friends and alumni have an opportunity to have a profound impact on this university at a critical time in its history," says Leitzel.

And it is critical: while UNH is ranked last in the nation for public funding of higher education, it also attracts world-class scholars to teach and conduct their research here. New Hampshire is one of the wealthiest states in per capita income, yet ranks near the bottom in charitable giving.

"This campaign is going to make a world of difference to the University of New Hampshire," Leitzel says.

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