



NEWS RELEASE

The Campaign for MSU Passes \$1 Billion Milestone

EAST LANSING, MI –On September 20, 2002, the Michigan State University Board of Trustees publicly launched *The Campaign for MSU* and set an ambitious goal to raise \$1.2 billion by 2007. Today, MSU announced that it has passed a significant milestone toward achieving this goal. As of July 30, 2005, *The Campaign for MSU* has raised over \$1 billion.

“Passing this important milestone is a true testament to the belief that our alumni, friends, corporations, foundations and our own faculty, staff and retirees have in the future of Michigan State University,” said MSU President Lou Anna K. Simon. “And while we cannot lose focus on reaching the overall campaign goal of raising \$1.2 billion by 2007, it is important that we take this time to celebrate our accomplishments to date.”

“MSU is now among an elite group of universities who have reached the milestone of raising \$1 billion from private sources,” said MSU’s Vice President for University Development Charles H. Webb. “And among those universities, we are only the third public university, along with Berkeley and Purdue, to reach that amount without the added fundraising benefit of a major on-campus medical/research center. This is an accomplishment of which we all can be very proud.”

One of the areas of focus for *The Campaign for MSU* is to raise much needed money for endowment. Endowments are an excellent way to acknowledge the outstanding education offered at MSU. In endowed funds, the total amount of a gift is invested. Each year, only a portion of the invested income earned is spent while the remainder adds to principal growth. In this respect, an endowment is a perpetual gift, and university administrators are stressing the need to continually increase funds designated as endowment. A sub goal of *The Campaign for MSU* is to add \$450 million to MSU’s endowment, and they have raised \$274.5 million to date.

“So much has been accomplished since the start of the campaign,” Webb said. “We have had new buildings constructed, old buildings renovated, numerous new scholarships created, key faculty additions, improvements in laboratories and other spaces for students. It is truly incredible the amount of enthusiasm we have seen and the level of generosity among our alumni and friends, individuals as well as corporations and foundations. Now, we need to keep moving forward to reach and exceed the \$1.2 billion goal, and to meet our endowment and planned giving goals.”

A sign of the progress made in fundraising over the past several years has been the increasing number of gifts of \$1 million or more given to the university each year. Since July 1999 when the campaign’s silent phase began, the university has received 27 gifts in excess of \$5 million, and another 120 gifts in excess of \$1 million. These donors alone have given over \$650 million to Michigan State University. In addition, the faculty, staff and retirees of MSU have contributed more than \$54 million during this campaign and their participation rate is at the top in the Big Ten every year.

“These results would not have been possible without the continued hard work and support of the academic leadership and staff of each of the university’s colleges and programs. It’s a team effort, and I thank deans, directors, faculty and staff for all of their hard work.” President Simon said. “Our job is far from done, but this is certainly a milestone worth celebrating.”

