

University launches \$150 million campaign

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Alfred University has announced a \$150 million fund raising campaign, "Building on Excellence," that will shape the future of the institution that was founded in 1836. "The public phase of our campaign has begun, and I am pleased to announce that we already have advance gifts and pledges of more than \$115 million in hand," said F. Peter Cuneo, vice chairman of the AU Board of Trustees and campaign chairman. " This campaign will transform the University," said Cuneo. The campaign will officially conclude on June 30, 2008. Cuneo said that the main goal of the campaign is to enable the university to carry out its historic mission, which is "to give students - regardless of gender, religion ethnic heritage or economic status - an opportunity to become more, to achieve more, for themselves, and for society," said Cuneo. "Alfred University must increase its endowment to provide scholarships for talented students who could not otherwise afford to attend college." Currently, 95 percent of all Alfred University students receive some form of assistance to attend, he noted. "Alfred University will continue to make higher education affordable for the best and the brightest, regardless of their ability to pay." Alfred University is the oldest of the true coeducational institutions of higher learning in the United States, admitting and educating women on an equal basis with men from its founding in 1836. It was also among the first in the nation to enroll African Americans and Native Americans. The second goal of the campaign is to enhance the quality of education offered at AU - "thus the name 'Building on Excellence,'" noted Cuneo. The personal and caring relationships between faculty and students is the key to an Alfred University education. "Our alumni treasured that experience, and prospective students are hungry for it, too. But this kind of education is costly," noted Cuneo. "Our faculty makes us great, so we are seeking endowments for faculty chairs, technology and academic programs," said Cuneo. "We need the best people to stay on the cutting edge." The third goal of the campaign is top-quality facilities, he said. "During the past 25 years, Alfred University underwent a tremendous period of building, but there are still many needs to address. Campaign gifts will transform the campus within the next three years," Cuneo said. A gift from the estate of John Herrick, for whose family the library is named, will help pay for its renovation. And Robert and Lynn Perlman have issued a \$1 million challenge that will allow for the renovation of Allen Hall. South Hall will be converted into a 90-bed residence hall beginning this summer. Other residence halls also need to be updated and refurbished as well, said Cuneo. He also pointed out that five former fraternity and sorority houses have been acquired by the University. A gift from Joel and Ann Moskowitz turned the former Sigma Alpha Mu fraternity into Joel's House, a residence for 22 students committed to community service. The brothers and friends of Delta Sigma Phi have contributed funds to convert the former house into the Fasano Welcome Center for the University. Fasano House is slated to open in the spring of 2006. This summer a gift from Michele and Martin Cohen will create the Cohen Studio and gallery at the former Zeta Beta Tau fraternity house on Main Street. Today's students are very health conscious, and students consider facilities for fitness activities to be a basic necessity. "The new equestrian center, being built five minutes from campus with a gift from Catherine '58 and Robert '83 Daggett, is a positive step, but we know we need a new sport and fitness facility as well," said Cuneo. And finally, the comprehensive campaign will provide the funds to implement innovative changes in the University's academic offerings. A \$35 million gift from Marlin and Ginger Miller will support AU's fine and performing arts programs. Ten million dollars of the Millers' gift will be used to construct a 500-seat proscenium theater at the Miller Performing Arts Center, and \$25 million will go into an endowment provide additional scholarship assistance, and will also support up to six endowed professorships in the arts. The New York State Senate allocated an additional \$10 million for new and improved facilities for art at AU. " A \$10 million gift from the Kyocera Corporation change the School of Engineering forever," said Cuneo. The \$10 million endowment will provide funds to hire up to four new faculty members in cutting-edge areas of research such as nanotechnology, biomaterials and photonics. The University has already announced its intention to rename its School of Engineering in honor of Dr. Kazuo Inamori, founder of Kyocera Corporation, the world's largest manufacturer of advanced ceramic materials. "These changes are unprecedented in the history of our University," said Cuneo. "It is an exciting time to be associated with Alfred University."#####