

GROWTH

2013 Annual Report



/southark



@SouthArkCC



/southarkcc



FOUNDATION

from our *College president*

SouthArk Community College has experienced another outstanding year.

We have reached new levels of giving and participation in our capital campaign, Heritage Plaza, and premier fundraiser, the SouthArk Outdoor Expo. Our new programs in performance and media arts and process technology are growing and expanding. We have made great strides toward achieving the goals established through the 2010-2016 strategic plan. We are strengthening external and internal means of communication; engaging students in support and service activities; improving success rates in programmatic, developmental and general-education classes; building human, physical and fiscal resources; and developing and strengthening partnerships with area schools, universities and businesses and



Barbara Q. Jones

industries.

We have exceeded the mark on many initiatives. It takes the concerted efforts of not only faculty and staff, but also community members and leaders to expand and improve education and the quality of life for our citizens.

Through your support of endowed scholarships, students are able to attend college and pursue a career. Through your capital gifts, we are able to provide a positive educational environment and campus that is conducive to learning. Through your generous annual donations or sponsorship of SouthArk events, we are able to offer funds for innovative practices for faculty and staff, purchase state-of-the-art equipment for programs and provide emergency assistance to students.

Your support makes such a profound difference in the lives of our students, our faculty and staff, our workforce, and our community. For all you do to assist SouthArk to achieve our mission of educating and training our future workforce for south Arkansas, we are grateful.

from our *Foundation president*

The year 2013 is my last as the president of the South Arkansas Community College Foundation. It has been very rewarding to see the foundation grow and prosper in the last few years.

Construction will start on Heritage Plaza soon. Our annual fundraising campaign is raising record level amounts. Thanks to our board members along with the leadership of vice president Greg Withrow,



Terry Johnson

the Outdoor Expo has become a huge fundraiser that benefits students. This fall festival will continue to grow even more in the coming years.

Most importantly, all of these efforts are for one thing: education. The students who attend SouthArk are the ones who truly benefit from all of the work that this foundation does.

Scholarships, physical-plant improvements and new programs are foundation-supported efforts.

Thanks to each of you for supporting the work of the South Arkansas Community College Foundation. Also, thank you for the opportunity to serve on this board and as the president of this foundation.



History grows here

HERITAGE PLAZA

Heritage Plaza will be the architectural gathering place of SouthArk and the community alike—a visual representation of the college’s legacy. Built at the very heart of SouthArk’s West Campus, a location that has been home to a learning institution since El Dorado’s earliest days, the plaza will be a lively gathering place ringed with benches, planters, landscaping and grassy lawns where our students and faculty can interact on a daily basis. It also will be a central location for special events. A unique water feature can be converted into a stage for performances and presentations, while paved walkways will guide traffic to each corner of the campus.

To date, we have received \$520,000 in pledges and gifts towards our goal of \$700,000 in this effort.

South Arkansas Community College has a legacy of learning and growth in El Dorado. Now it’s time

to pay tribute to this special place in the center of our community by giving a generous gift to make Heritage Plaza a reality.

We consider it an honor to recognize our benefactors who have invested in our vision. Your name, or the name of someone who you wish to honor, will be recognized for your support.

Engraved donor
wall brick in
honor or memory
of loved one:

\$100

Naming opportunities: fountain-stage \$125,000; lawns \$20,000; trees \$15,000; benches \$9,000.

Additional naming opportunities may be considered at your request.

Levels of giving: Diamond \$6,000; Platinum \$3,000; Gold \$1,500; Silver \$750; Bronze \$300;

Pewter \$150; Copper \$50.

Gifts may be pledged over three years.

You may purchase a beautiful engraved brick on the donor wall in honor of memory of a loved one for \$100.

Sowing the seeds

CORPORATE DONATIONS



Tetra Technologies recently donated \$5,000 to benefit the process technology program.



Entegra-Union Power Partners recently donated \$3,000 to benefit Heritage Plaza.



Georgia-Pacific Crossett Paper Operations recently donated \$10,000 to benefit the process technology program.



Tom Loftin Construction, title sponsor, donated \$7,500 toward the SouthArk Outdoor Expo fundraising effort.



Herring Furniture, rib cookoff sponsor, donated \$5,000 toward the SouthArk Outdoor Expo fundraising effort.



El Dorado Chemical donated \$4,200 toward the SouthArk Outdoor Expo fundraising effort.



Nexans Americable, 5K sponsor, donated \$6,000 to toward the SouthArk Outdoor Expo fundraising effort.



Cultivation

ANNUAL DONOR-SCHOLAR LUNCHEON



Donors and scholarship recipients were brought together in the spring for the annual Donor-Scholar Luncheon, hosted by the SouthArk Foundation, at the El Dorado Conference Center.



Just keeps growing

SOUTHARK OUTDOOR EXPO

The SouthArk Outdoor Expo, an annual major fundraiser for the SouthArk Foundation, brought in more than \$57,000 this year.

Held each September, the Expo attracts visitors, as well as sponsors, vendors and contest participants, from a large area around El Dorado.

This year the event featured a photography contest, cooking contest, duck-calling contest and a 5K race.

With fantastic weather and a new focus on musical entertainment—including headliner Jason D. Williams, a piano-playing El Dorado native—organizers called the turnout the largest in the event's history.





Opportunity to blossom

JOSEPHINE HARRIS

Some say that life begins at 40; for Josephine Harris, this year's SouthArk Academic All-Star, 40 was the start of her college journey.

Already a nursing assistant, she enrolled at South Arkansas Community College and began classes on her 40th birthday, pursuing a certificate in practical nursing. It was a career path that she set out on initially many years prior.

After she had graduated from Strong High School in 1987, Harris' father asked her what she wanted to do for the rest of her life.

"I told him I wanted to be a nurse so that I could make a difference in people's lives," Harris said. "At the time I had a child who was getting ready to start kindergarten, so I decided that I need to make a difference in her life first."

Harris became a CNA; her daughter grew up, went



to college herself and now is a doctor of physical therapy, having graduated from the University of Central Arkansas in 2008.

Shortly after, Harris' mother died suddenly with an aneurysm; that was the day, Harris said, that she decided to begin full-fledged pursuit of a nursing career.

"I decided to enroll in SouthArk because it was close to home, the class scheduling was flexible enough to allow me to continue work and participate in my other two kids' activities at school and the staff would go above and beyond to ensure you get the help you need in order to succeed," she said.

She described it as amazing that she graduated with a practical-nursing certificate with highest honors—a distinction that goes to the top academic performers.

Harris went on to similar success in the registered nursing program, from which she graduated this fall with an associate's degree.

She isn't finished yet; Harris' long-term goal is to become a nurse practitioner.

"It has not been easy but by putting God first, I have exceeded above all that I could ever imagine," she said.

From our infancy

DR. CAROLYN LANGSTON

The first employee hired by the former Southern State College-El Dorado, business professor Dr. Carolyn Langston has distinguished herself through her dedication to student learning, career achievements and professional development. For these reasons she was selected this year for the Spirit of SouthArk President's Award.

Hired to teach, she nonetheless worked in a variety of capacities as the institution was being established, including hiring employees and enrolling students.

Her influence has extended into financial philanthropy as well, as she has established two fully-endowed scholarships for student learning through the SouthArk Foundation.

After more than 33 years as a faculty member, Langston continues to teach at the college full-time and is one of the most respected and impactful instructors at SouthArk, to both students and employees.



At our roots

DRS. KERMIT AND JENNIFER PARKS

Kermit and Jennifer Parks have been important contributors to the success of South Arkansas Community College and its predecessors for many years, he as an administrator and later an instructor and board member, she as an instructor.

Both have been consistent supporters of the SouthArk Foundation through charitable giving, and are members of the Foundation's Pathway Society. Dr. Kermit Parks established an endowed scholarship for students interested in public service.

Kermit Parks came to the former El Dorado branch of Southern State College as the director of community service, then was the college's chief academic officer for 15 years. He was an instructor of history and political science at SouthArk for another decade, then from 2003-2009 was the secretary of the SouthArk Board of Trustees.

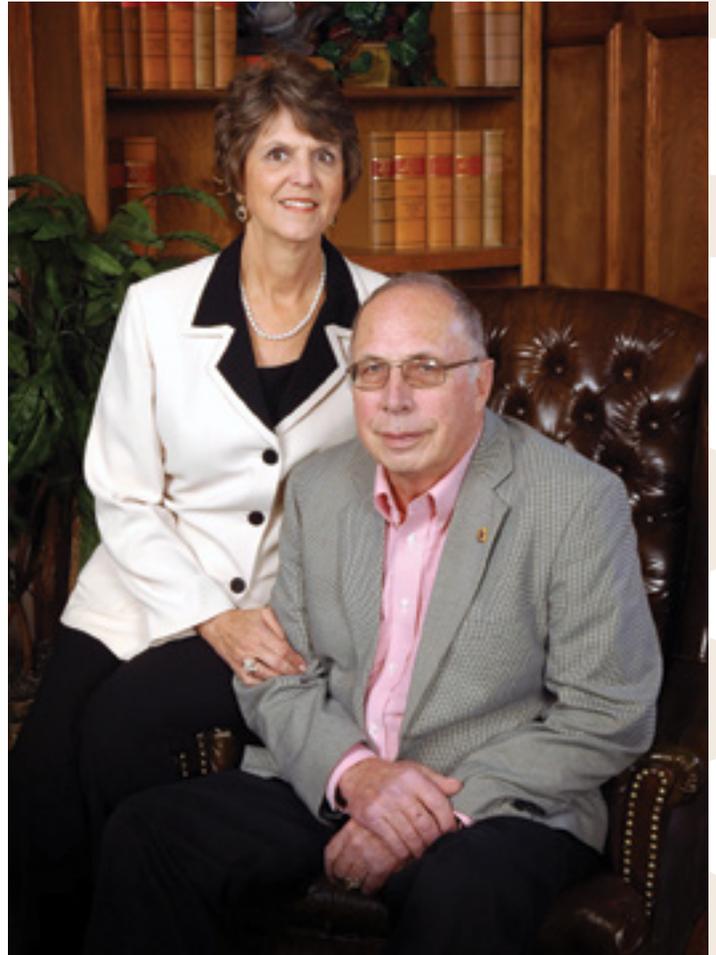
"Seldom in one's career is anyone given the opportunity to help build a college from its beginning and watch it grow to a major part of the community," Kermit Parks said.

Among his many community service pursuits, he has held offices with the El Dorado-Union County NAACP, the South Arkansas Regional Archives, the El Dorado Planning and Zoning Commission, the El Dorado chapter of Civitan International, the Salvation Army Advisory Committee and the South Arkansas Historical Foundation.

Dr. Jennifer Parks came to SouthArk in 1998 to help launch the physical therapist assistant program, which has grown into one of the most respected and recognized programs at the college. Students come from great distances to pursue this educational track;

graduates are licensed and employed at a very high rate.

Jennifer Parks also recently wrapped a year-long term as board president



of the Arkansas Association of Two-Year Colleges. She was the first SouthArk representative to achieve this office.

She also was a member of the Arkansas State Board of Physical Therapy.

"After only 15 years, I consider El Dorado my home," Jennifer Parks said. "The friendships and professional relationships I have made throughout the community and at the college have truly been a blessing. I greatly value the impact that SouthArk has had on my life and I appreciate its impact on the community."



Our supporters

Based on fiscal year ending on June 30, 2013.

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\$250,000 or more

Estate of Norris C. Taylor, Jr.

PATHWAY SOCIETY

\$100,000 - \$250,000

Anonymous Donor
Arkansas Single-Parent Scholarship Fund
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Talent on display



“H.M.S. PINAFORE”

The first production of the new performance and media arts program at SouthArk, Gilbert and Sullivan’s “H.M.S. Pinafore,” had an ensemble cast, large crew and unforgettable staging. The South Arkansas Arts Center stage became the deck of the Pinafore; about 50 people were involved in the production of the comic opera in the spring.

The SouthArk Foundation supports such projects through its Fine Arts Fund.

Fun outdoors

AUTUMN AT THE ARBORETUM

Autumn at the Arboretum is an annual event at the South Arkansas Arboretum—a park under the management of South Arkansas Community College.

With changing foliage overhead, visitors of all ages experienced cooler temperatures, graying skies, many decorative pumpkins scattered throughout the area and jazz music by the local high-school band.

The SouthArk Foundation supports the Arboretum through charitable gifts.



Outstanding Alumna

BETH SULLIVAN

When Beth Sullivan first learned that she had been selected as SouthArk's Outstanding Alumna for 2013-2014, she felt disbelief, she said.



But really, it makes a lot of sense: After graduating from Parkers Chapel High School in 1989, Sullivan enrolled at Southern Arkansas University's El Dorado branch, and graduated in 1992, transferring to SAU's main campus. She later graduated with a bachelor's and master's degrees in education, with an emphasis in gifted education.

After several years teaching, she came back to SouthArk as an instructor for two years, before becoming the gifted and talented coordinator for the El Dorado School District.

She did all of this as the first person in her family to graduate college with a bachelor's degree.

Her experiences at SouthArk, Sullivan said, both as a student and as a teacher, paved the way for later successes.

Citing several examples of SouthArk instructors who influenced her, Sullivan said, "The passion for their subject matter as well as their rapport with students provide great models of effective teachers and classrooms."

The prospect of working with great instructors is one reason why Sullivan wanted to return to SouthArk in a teaching capacity, she said.

"Also, the possibility of advising first-generation college students was very appealing to me," she said.

Overseeing a district-wide gifted-and-talented program comes with unique activities, she said.

"One day I may be preparing a scavenger hunt for first graders to identify animal tracks in the woods of Moro Bay State Park, and the next I may be making reservations for 100 sixth graders to take a train ride through the Boston Mountains," she said. "Planning for so many events is truly a unique part of my job!"

Sullivan noted that her only sibling died as a high-school senior.

"With her passing went the hopes and dreams my parents had for her future accomplishments," she said. "This award is doubly special for us."

Students' Choice

CHRISTY WILSON

Mathematics instructor Christy Wilson is described by her students as "an amazing teacher" who "goes the extra mile to make sure you succeed in her class." In the spring semester, Wilson was selected by SouthArk students to receive the G. Thomas Baumgardner Students' Choice Award.

Wilson, a teacher at SouthArk since 2011, has helped developmental and college math students succeed in a strong, interactive learning environment.

She is a graduate of El Dorado High School and an alumna of SouthArk. After graduating with an associate's degree in general studies, she transferred to Southern Arkansas University where she graduated with bachelor's degrees in English and math and in teaching English and math in grades five through 12, and a master's degree in curriculum and instruction.





Through the years

W.F. AND ESTELLE MCWILLIAMS HOUSE

South Arkansas Community College learned in October that the W.F. and Estelle McWilliams House on the West Campus had been accepted for the National Register of Historic Places.

The National Register is the country's official list of historically-significant properties.

The home is at the corner of Summit Avenue and Wesson Street. It currently is occupied by Claude and Glynn Calahan, who have lived there since the late 1960s.

The announcement came just months after the college learned that it would be awarded a \$200,000 grant from the Arkansas Natural and Cultural Resources Council to begin restoring the house.

The funds will be used primarily to repair the house's roof, eaves and gutters. A secondary purpose for the grant is to create a master plan for further preservation, renovation and long-term use.

The college's administration building (opened in 1905) and gymnasium (opened in 1940), also on the West Campus, both already are on the National Register. The McWilliams House will provide a backdrop on the other end of what will be Heritage Plaza, the open-air beautification project currently in development, when it is complete.

SouthArk has owned the historic home since 2006, under the agreement that the property will be placed into the care of the college fully whenever its current occupants discontinue residence.



Boundless generosity

SHARE FOUNDATION

The Council for Resource Development, a national professional organization dedicated to fundraising at two-year colleges, this fall selected SHARE Foundation as its Community College Benefactor of the Year for small rural schools.

In its 20th year, the award seeks to recognize individuals, foundations or corporations whose philanthropy have benefited community colleges. SHARE, a consistent donor to South Arkansas Community College, was recognized officially in a banquet in Washington in November.

Representatives of SouthArk nominated SHARE earlier this year.

“Funds provided by this local non-profit foundation have allowed the college to develop services and



programs that further health education, provide student scholarships and support access to education,” SouthArk’s nominating letter read.

In 2011, SHARE awarded SouthArk a \$545,000 grant to fund its Health Science Professional Development Center, which provides a myriad of professional-development opportunities as well as state-of-the-art equipment. SHARE has given more than \$72,000 throughout the lifetime of the Union County Single Parent Scholarship Fund. Earlier this year SHARE also gave \$6,000 to establish the Cooperating Collection of the Foundation Center of New York at the college library.

from our *Foundation Director*

The SouthArk Foundation Board of Directors thanks the many donors who have financially supported and shown commitment to the college in many ways. Due to the generous support from individuals, business and industry and our family of college employees, SouthArk is the premiere choice of education for many students in south Arkansas.



Cynthia Ruyss

With your support, many of our students are making their dreams become a reality through the varied scholarships and special projects for which they have received support. Seeing our students go to school while juggling their many other responsibilities and completing their education is most inspiring. Your generosity is helping to produce and strengthen a trained and qualified workforce, making our community a great place

in which to live and work.

With your many gifts, we continue to invest in promoting advanced technology, growing our curriculum, and improving our facilities. These efforts are made possible so that we may provide the best and most economical education to the citizens in our community. Together, we are creating wonderful opportunities and touching lives across south Arkansas. Thank you again for your commitment to SouthArk.



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Jay Helm



Melissa Jerry

OUTGOING



Pete Parks

Help them grow

Your gift can turn dreams into reality. There are many ways to contribute:

- Cash, checks, credit cards
- Marketable securities or stocks
- Real estate
- Life insurance
- Charitable remainder trust
- Gift annuity
- Will (bequest)
- Corporate matching gift

Support student scholarships

While tuition remains reasonable, the combined cost of educational and living expenses means that many students require financial aid. The foundation's privately-funded scholarship program provides that aid for hundreds of

students each year.

Memorial and tribute gifts

You may provide these gifts in loving memory of a friend or family member or to mark a special occasion. They are a unique way to pay tribute to those who are dear to you. Be sure to give us the names and contact information of friends and loved ones as we will send a special card recognizing your generosity.

Planned gifts

We hope you will remember SouthArk in your gift planning process. There are many ways to make a lasting commitment and leave a legacy to the college and its

students. Planned gifts can provide tremendous benefit to the college while helping you save taxes, increase your income and pass your estate to your heirs. All gifts to the SouthArk Foundation are tax-deductible.

Online donations

You can make your gift online at www.southark.edu/foundation. Click on "Giving." Or you can fill out the enclosed pledge card and mail it back to us with your donation using the enclosed self-addressed envelope.

For more information, contact Cynthia Reyna at (870) 864-7130 or creyna@southark.edu.

Scholarships

Alpha Xi Endowed
Dr. Kenneth Bridges
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Choral
Charles E. Cowger Endowed
El Dorado Civitan Golden Door Endowed
El Dorado Jaycees Endowed
General
Health Sciences
Island Memorial
James Family Endowed
Langston Endowed
Living the Dream
Omazel Lawson Endowed
Jodie Mahony Endowed
Mabel and Emon Mahony Endowed
Michael Mahony/BancorpSouth Endowed
MCSA/Betty White Endowed
James M. Moore Jr. Endowed
Neely Endowed
Dr. Kermit Parks Public Service Endowed
E.W. Pickering Endowed
Mabel Stratton Powell Endowed
ProMed Ambulance
REACH
Lucy Ring Academic Excellence Endowed

Lucy Ring Fine Arts Endowed
Simmons First Bank Endowed
Single Parent Fund of Union County
Jo An and Charles T. Skinner Endowed
Melba Tatom Nursing Endowed
William Jammillous (Jay) Terry
Trade and Industry
Jonathan M. Warren Memorial
Dr. Ben T. Whitfield Endowed

Other Funds

Innovation Mini-Grant
Student Crisis
SouthArk Library
Student Vision Care
South Arkansas Arboretum
SouthArk Lecture Series
Fine Arts
President's Circle



Financial

Assets

Current Assets

Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 927,437
Pledges receivable, current portion	59,875
Accrued interest receivable	173
Prepaid expenses	2,921
Investments	<u>1,470,095</u>

Total Current Assets..... 2,460,501

Fixed Assets, at cost

Computer software	6,365
Property and equipment	<u>50,126</u>
	56,491
Less: accumulated depreciation and amortization	<u>39,998</u>

Total Fixed Assets..... 16,493

Other Assets

Antique furniture	2,410
Pledges receivable, non-current portion	<u>66,611</u>

Total Other Assets..... 69,021

\$ 2,546,015

Liabilities and net assets

Current Liabilities

Accounts payable	\$ 11,484
Scholarships payable	10,445
Refundable advances	<u>36,730</u>

Total Current Liabilities..... 58,659

Net Assets

Unrestricted	1,393,805
Unrestricted - Board designated	30,000
Temporarily restricted	<u>1,063,551</u>

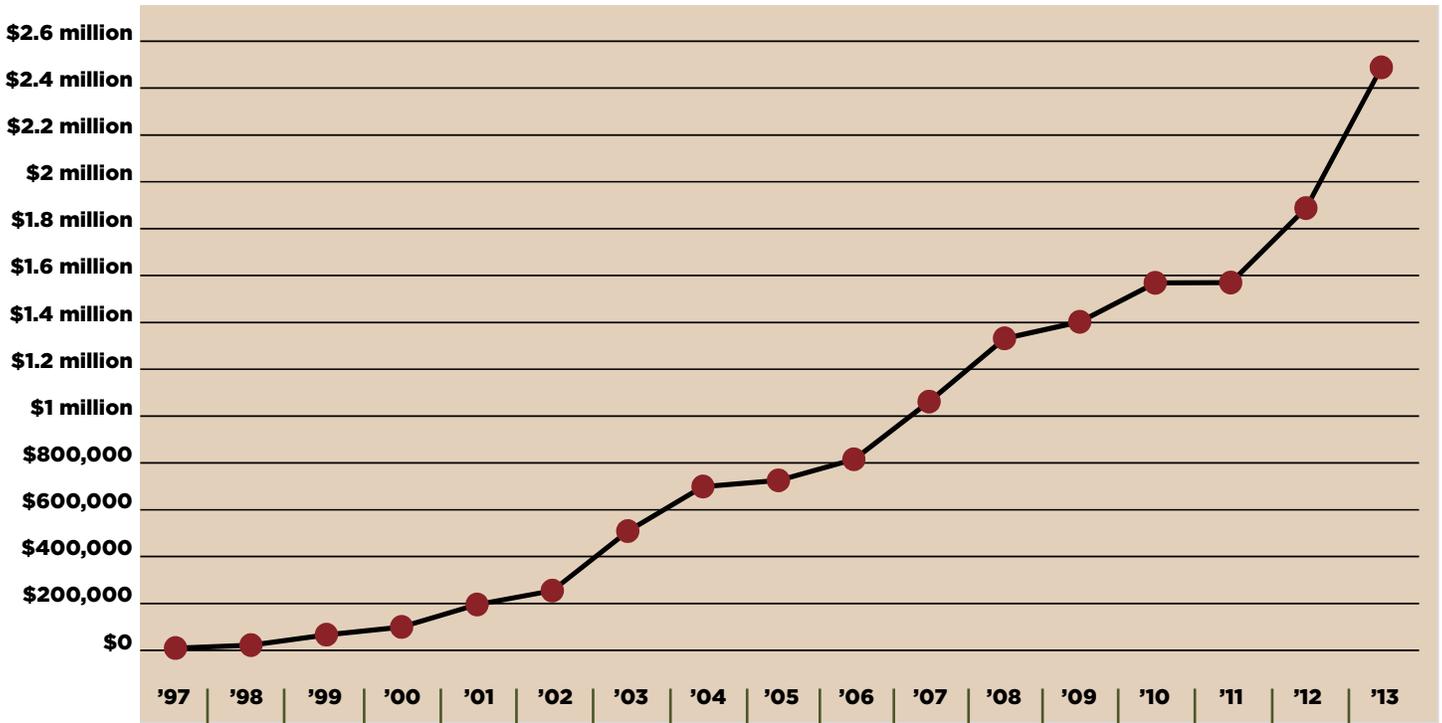
Total Net Assets..... 2,487,356

\$ 2,546,015

The independent audit of the SouthArk Foundation Inc. was prepared by the firm of Evers, Cox and Gober, P.L.L.C. The complete audit for the fiscal year ending on June 30, 2013, is available for review at the Foundation office and website.

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FOUNDATION ASSET GROWTH *Fiscal years ending June 30*



WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO? *Fiscal year ending June 20, 2013*

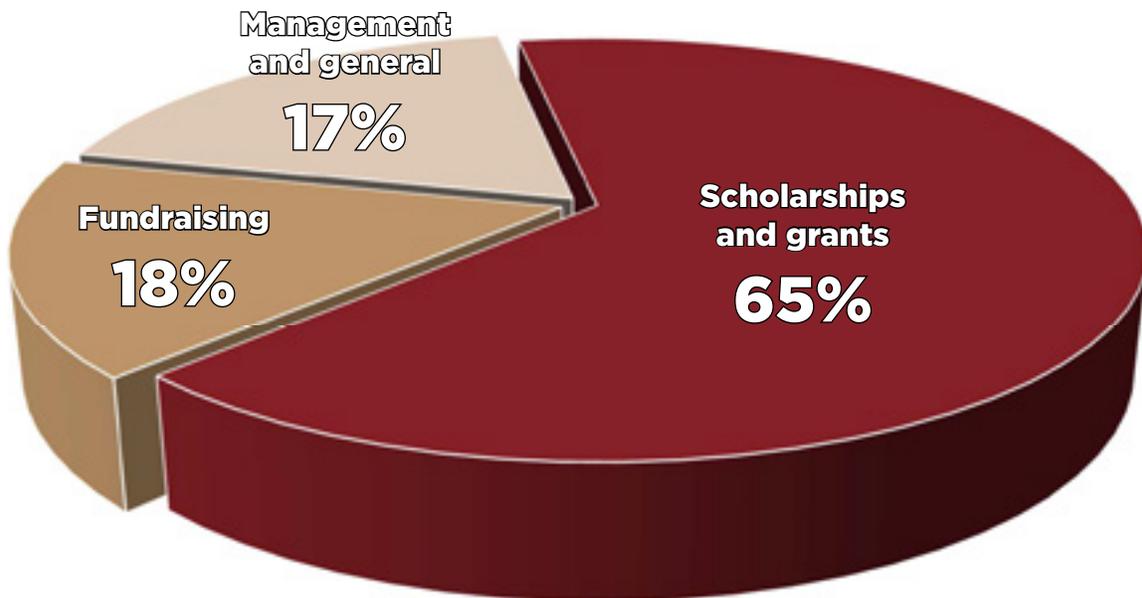


Chart excludes in-kind expenses.