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WKU Alumni Association

The Western Kentucky University Alumni Association encourages alumni to develop strong ties with each other and the University through an engaging mix of programs and activities. Currently, more than 75,000 WKU alumni live around the globe. Although they come from different areas and backgrounds, all share the deep bond of the WKU experience.

Chartered in 1913, the Alumni Association exists to “enhance and strengthen the Western Spirit.” The continued vitality of the Alumni Association depends on the commitment of time, energy, and resources from alumni like you.
Alumni Association Involvement

There are numerous ways for you to become involved with your Alumni Association and engaged in the life of WKU. The following pages of the Alumni Guide illustrate a wide variety of programs, services, affinity partners, and volunteer opportunities that are offered. Please take the time to read the Alumni Guide and get involved. You’ll be glad you did!

Becoming a sustaining member of the WKU Alumni Association is an easy and important first step in becoming more involved. Although all alumni experience benefits from the Alumni Association, many of the programs and services offered would not be possible without the annual financial support of Alumni Association sustaining members.

Alumni Association members help fund WKU SPIRIT, scholarships, Homecoming, reunions, and many other special programs. An annual, tax-deductible gift of $25 allows you to become a sustaining member of the WKU Alumni Association. A $500 gift grants lifetime Alumni Association member status.

Membership privileges include:

• WKU Alumni Association Decal
• 10% Discount on Continuing Education Programs
• WKU Libraries Privileges
• 10% Discount on Logo Items at University Bookstore
• Discount Admission to Alumni Association Chapter Events
• Financial support of all programs and services offered by your Alumni Association.
Alumni Chapter Network

With more than 40 alumni chapters representing geographic regions in 15 states plus the District of Columbia, chapters are designed to foster the Western Spirit and serve as both social and educational organizations. Being an active part of an alumni chapter is a great way to meet other alumni in your area, keep in contact with the University and have a lot of fun! The possibilities of events are endless and can be tailored to each chapter area. For a complete list of alumni chapters, visit our website at www.wku.edu/Alumni.

Generally, chapters work to:

• encourage fellowship among alumni and friends of the University
• help recruit outstanding high school students for admission
• sponsor alumni participation in local community service projects
• support the University’s fund-raising activities
• welcome new alumni and new students to the local Western community
Alumni College

Alumni College is a lifelong-learning program for alumni and friends of Western Kentucky University. The program gives participants an opportunity to stay in residence halls while they enjoy fun, yet educational classes on campus and in the Bowling Green community. Alumni College students enjoy the great traditions of the past, plus the recent changes that continue to make Western’s campus one of the most beautiful universities in the country. Haven’t seen your college friends in several years? Call them up and plan your Alumni College Adventure together! The program is held the first weekend in June each year.

Alumni Leadership Scholars

Each year, six incoming freshmen are awarded $1,000 each for the Alumni Leadership Scholarship. The scholarship is renewable for up to four years. Throughout the academic year, the Alumni Leadership Scholars attend various programs aimed at enhancing their overall development as a student leader and an individual.

Chapter and Alumni Management Program (C.A.M.P.)

C.A.M.P. is the training program created for all alumni volunteers. All chapter volunteers receive a manual with guidelines and expectations of volunteers. In addition to the manual, C.A.M.P. is held annually to bring together alumni from all different chapters for the purpose of networking and sharing ideas. During C.A.M.P., volunteers learn how to improve their chapter by gaining ideas for new activities, student recruitment tactics, and fund-raising ideas.
Coming Home

Coming Home is the Spring equivalent to the Fall Homecoming. It is held in conjunction with a home WKU Lady Topper and Hilltopper basketball weekend, providing an opportunity for past WKU players to be recognized as thousands of Western faithful enjoy the activities of the weekend.

Continuing Education

The WKU Alumni Association Chapter Network Program works to preserve the Western Spirit in communities across the country. A new focus for the chapter network is continuing education to promote lifelong learning in all activities associated with WKU. The continuing education program offering is based on the alumni chapter’s preference. Continuing education activities can range from an alumni chapter luncheon with a guest speaker to an internet course with one of our faculty.

Faculty Awards

The faculty at Western Kentucky University is a group of committed individuals who are constantly giving their time to assist students in preparing for their future. The Alumni Association provides awards to faculty to show appreciation for the commitment of that group. Each year, four outstanding faculty awards are given for Public Service, Research, Teaching, and Advising. Each recipient receives a $1,000 honorarium from the Alumni Association and the awards are presented at the Faculty Convocation at the beginning of each academic year.

Graduation Fair

The commencement ceremony celebrates the conclusion of years of hard work, effort, and accomplishment. To make the transition from student to alumnus as easy as possible, the WKU Alumni Association, WKU Bookstore, and Balfour sponsor a “Grad Fair” in the fall and spring. The Graduation Fair provides students the opportunity to purchase personalized graduation announcements, be sized for caps and gowns, and speak with representatives from the Alumni Association, Career Services, Graduate Studies, Registrar’s Office, and Senior Class Challenge.
Growing Up Red Legacy Program

The “Growing Up Red” Legacy Program will allow alumni to introduce their children to WKU at a very young age. Membership is $10 annually (per child) for sustaining Alumni Association members. Upon membership, the child will receive a membership card and the “Growing Up Red” storybook, exclusive to the Legacy Program. Members will receive a birthday card each year, and gifts for certain ages, including a Big Red backpack for starting school and a piggy bank to begin saving for college. For more information on the “Growing Up Red” Legacy Program, visit the Alumni website at www.wku.edu/Alumni
Hall of Distinguished Alumni

Each year, on the Friday of Homecoming Week, the Western Kentucky University Alumni Association celebrates the induction of a new class into the Hall of Distinguished Alumni. The University proudly honors three alumni who have made outstanding contributions to their country, their state, and Western Kentucky University. The recipients earn their awards based on leadership, loyal support, service, and dedication to the University and their respective disciplines. Each year, nominations for membership in the Hall of Distinguished Alumni (HODA) are accepted through January 31 by the WKU Alumni Association Board of Directors.

Homecoming

Homecoming occurs in the Fall of each year and serves as our largest reunion. With thousands of alumni in attendance, there are a variety of events for them to attend, including the Glasgow Homecoming Celebration, Warren County Chili Cheese Luncheon, Homecoming Parade, Big Red Street Fest, departmental brunches and receptions, tailgating, football, and much more.

Parents’ Association

The WKU Parents’ Association provides the perfect way for parents to become more involved with the activities at Western. WKU is committed to maximizing communication between a student’s family at home and their WKU family on the Hill. The Parents’ Association provides valuable information to help improve the interest, welfare, and excellence of the University.
Reunions

Business University Reunion
The Bowling Green Business University reunion is held every other year (odd years) for those alumni who graduated from the Business University. BU was once ranked as one of the top business schools in the nation, and it merged with WKU in 1963.

Decade Reunion
Each year a decade reunion is held in conjunction with Reunion Weekend. We celebrate the 60s, 70s, 80s, and 90s Decades. Each decade will be celebrated every five years. Themed Activities are planned throughout the reunion weekend.

Golden Anniversary Club Reunion
The Golden Anniversary Club reunion is held every year for those alumni who graduated 50 years ago or more from Western Kentucky University. This reunion is a milestone for these alumni. Activities are planned throughout the entire weekend to bring alumni back to campus and once again familiarize them with the WKU Spirit.

Special Reunions
If you have a group of Western alumni that you would like to reunite, contact the WKU Office of Alumni Relations and Annual Giving. We will assist you with all reunion plans, from locating lost friends and classmates to securing locations and planning the menu.
The Society of African-American Alumni (SAAA) holds the common purpose of recruiting students, involving alumni, providing financial support, and mentoring. This helps assure a quality experience before and after graduation for African-American students at Western Kentucky University.

The SAAA works to promote communication that will foster positive relationships between prospective African-American students, the current African-American student population, and the University’s African-American Alumni.
Staff Excellence Awards

The Alumni Association also provides four Staff Excellence Awards. These awards are provided to outstanding members of the WKU staff in the categories of Administrative Support, Building Services Attendant, Skilled, Technical, or Paraprofessional Professional. Each recipient receives a $500 award from the Alumni Association.

Student Alumni Association

Students must begin preparing for their future even before they enter college if they want to become successful in an increasingly competitive work environment. In addition to academic achievement, students must develop social and leadership skills, learn to network, and gain some “real world” experience. The Student Alumni Association (SAA) exists to assist students with these important issues. Members of the Student Alumni Association are given the opportunity to network with alumni at events, be matched with an alumni mentor, and attend workshops on topics ranging from dining etiquette to internship possibilities to developing a professional image. Involvement in the SAA is a great opportunity for students to build lifelong relationships with other members of the WKU family and experience many of the most revered WKU traditions.
Summit Awards

The Summit Awards is held on the Thursday evening of Homecoming Week and is designed to honor the volunteers of Western Kentucky University. This dinner program provides WKU with an opportunity to express gratitude to those who unselfishly give their time and resources to the University. During the dinner, alumni volunteers and alumni chapters receive awards for their service to the Alumni Association. The highlight of the night is the presentation of three Distinguished Service Medals, which recognize the top University volunteers.
Topper Travelers
Program

Topper Travelers offers distinctive travel opportunities with alumni and friends of WKU to destinations around the globe. Additional value is added by maintaining an emphasis on life-long learning. This is accomplished through the use of WKU faculty with expertise in the chosen destination as tour guides, interactive sessions with current WKU students, creating an enjoyable environment full of unique insight, as well as plenty of free time to explore on your own.


**Alumni Grant**
The Alumni Grant program is a grant that is offered to any qualified nonresident student whose parent, grandparent, or step-parent holds an associates, baccalaureate, master’s or specialist degree or has completed a certified program through the University. This program also includes institutions which are now a part of the University. (*Bowling Green Business University, Ogden College, and Potter College.*)

Qualified students will pay the in-state registration fee plus 25 percent and the alumni grant will pay the difference between the in-state and out-of-state rates. Registration fees at the time of enrollment will determine the value of the alumni grant. Students qualifying for an alumni grant may also apply for other University scholarships. The brochure and application can be obtained from the Office of Alumni Relations and Annual Giving.

**Alumni Record Updates**
It is important to keep all of your information updated with the Alumni Association so you can receive WKU SPIRIT and invitations to events in your area. To update your information, please contact the Office of Alumni Relations and Annual Giving at 888.WKU.ALUM or alumni@wku.edu.

**Career Services**
The Alumni Association partners with the Career Services Center at Western to assist alumni in getting that first job, relocating after years of employment, or simply refining resumes and interviewing skills. To contact Career Services, please call (270)745-3095.
**News From the Hill**
This publication is a monthly electronic newsletter that allows for continuous communication with alumni. It features University News, Alumni News, Athletic News, and Academic News along with an alumni events calendar and additional publications to keep you connected to WKU.

**Online Directory**
The Online Directory allows you to search for your former classmates and college friends and get WKU news, events calendar, register for events, and chapter pages. To register for this service provided to WKU alumni only, visit our website at www.wku.edu/Alumni.
Scholarships
There are many scholarship opportunities for Western students. In addition to the Alumni Leadership Scholarship and the Lee Robertson Scholarship Program provided by the Alumni Association, there are hundreds of other scholarships available for qualified students. Please contact the Office of Alumni Relations and Annual Giving for more details.

Western Welcome Wagon
The Western Welcome Wagon is designed to welcome Western alumni moving to a new city. This program is helpful to alumni who have a business they would like listed in the online directory and for alumni moving to new areas. Contact the Office of Alumni Relations and Annual Giving to find out how to participate in the Western Welcome Wagon, or visit us on the web at www.wku.edu/Alumni.
WKU SPIRIT

WKU SPIRIT, the university's 90,000+ circulation, award-winning publication, is produced three times a year (April, August, and December) and serves as a key link between the university and its graduates. WKU SPIRIT also has a presence on the World Wide Web as the current edition is posted on a link from the Alumni Association home page. The magazine has the following standing features- President’s Letter, Campus News, Professors you Love, Adventures of the Red Towel, Class Notes, In Memoriam and Chapter Event Page.
Alumni Association Board of Directors

The Alumni Association Board of Directors is comprised of 30 members from a diverse representation of geographic areas, ages, disciplines, and races. Each member serves on the board for a 3-year term. The board perpetuates itself by selecting nine new members each year.

Alumni Chapter Planning Team

Each alumni chapter has a core group of volunteers that serve on a planning team. The planning team meets to decide on the type of events to host and to plan all details for these events. Alumni chapters exist to support Western Kentucky University and the planning teams do this by planning student recruitment events, creating fundraising projects, volunteering for community service projects, and providing continuing education to the chapter members. Each chapter is continually seeking new volunteers to serve on its planning team.

Annual Fund Advisory Council

The Annual Fund Advisory Council (AFAC) is comprised of volunteers who assist the University by soliciting their peers and providing guidance to annual giving initiatives. The AFAC meets biannually and is always welcoming new members.

Hilltoppers for Higher Education – Legislative Advocacy Network

The HHE is established to engage alumni and friends of Western Kentucky University in affecting legislative initiatives that impact higher education in the Commonwealth and nation, with particular interest in the future needs of WKU through a grassroots effort involving letter writing, direct contact and event organization. This group is open to anyone interested in being a voice for WKU on legislative issues.
Parents’ Advisory Council

The Parents’ Advisory Council serves as the primary liaison between the University and parents and families. Council members meet three times a year with University administration to discuss together how we can continue to enhance the quality of life for our students. The Parents’ Advisory Council is composed of a parent or set of parents representing four students each from the freshman, sophomore, junior, and senior classes. The Council members serve until their student(s) has completed his/her senior year at the University.
Volunteer Opportunities
Targeting Our Prospective Students (TOPS)

Volunteers for TOPS are Western alumni who have joined together to assist WKU with student recruitment. These alumni assist with recruiting by participating in phonathons for high school students, host dinners for prospective students, and attend Admission Open Houses. If you’re in touch with today’s students, we need your help.

Western Wisdom Alumni Mentoring Program

Western Wisdom is an exciting and enriching program for both alumni and undergraduate students. Through this program, a WKU alumnus is matched with a current student for the purpose of providing support, guidance, and assistance as the student faces new challenges in choosing classes, looking for internships and deciding on a career. New members are needed each and every day.

Young Alumni Council

The Young Alumni Council is comprised of 20 members who graduated within the last 10 years. This group will address young alumni issues associated with Western Kentucky University, and help guide future programs and services offered by the Alumni Association. The council meets bi-annually. Each member serves a three-year term and the council selects six new members each year.
Alumni Travel Benefits
WKU Alumni enjoy travel benefits on over 3,500 resorts in more than 80 countries through University Alumni Travel Benefits. Visit www.wku.edu/Alumni and look for affinity partners. (UATB ID# is AKY-003) or call 888.729.3842 for more information.

Credit Card with Chase
The Alumni Association affinity credit card program is through CHASE. The WKU Alumni Association receives royalties based on a percentage of the purchases made by WKU VISA cardholders. Credit card applications are available through the Office of Alumni Relations and Annual Giving or on the Alumni web site.
Insurance Programs

Health and Life Insurance
Through a partnership with American Insurance Administrators, students and alumni can receive affordable short-term health care. Insurance plans are available for graduating seniors and alumni. Contact American Insurance Administrators for more information at 800.922.1245 or visit our web site.

Long Term Care Insurance
The WKU Alumni Association has teamed up with Marsh Affinity Group Services to offer a valuable Long Term Care Insurance Program. Long Term Care Insurance is the only insurance designed to help cover the costs of long term care services. The Long Term Care program is underwritten by Metropolitan Life Insurance Company and Prudential Life Insurance Company. For more information, call 1.800.616.8759 or visit www.ltcr.com/alumni.

Home and Auto Insurance
Liberty Mutual, one of the top 10 insurance providers in the nation, offers exclusive group discounts on home and auto insurance to all alumni and friends of Western Kentucky University. For a quote, call 1.800.524.9400 and mention you are a graduate of WKU. Visit us online at www.libertymutual.com/lm/westernkentucky.

Official Class Ring
The Official Class Ring of Western Kentucky University is a unique tradition at WKU. The ring, offered through Balfour, is embellished with the official symbol of WKU, the Cherry Hall Cupola. The University Motto “The Spirit Makes the Master,” is inscribed on the ring’s banner, and the ring is available in 10K and 14K white or yellow gold. Visit www.wku.edu/Alumni for more details, or call Balfour at 615.385.7002 to order your ring today.
We hope you’ve enjoyed the Alumni Guide.

As a refresher, the following are 10 ways you can help Western Kentucky University:

• Become a sustaining member of the WKU Alumni Association
• Keep us updated on any changes with your address, family, and career
• Wear and display WKU merchandise
• Attend an alumni event
• Leave WKU as a beneficiary in your estate plan
• Recruit a student for WKU
• Make a gift to the WKU Annual Fund each year
• Serve as a mentor to a current student
• Lobby legislators about higher education issues
• Read WKU SPIRIT magazine and get involved
Get Connected with WKU! Return for more information

Send me information about:

- Admissions
- Alumni Association
- Alumni Online Directory
- Alumni Travel Program
- Annual Fund
- Athletic Events
- Career Services
- Continuing Education Programs
- Cultural Events
- Including WKU in Estate Plans
- Growing Up Red Legacy Program
- WKU Merchandise

I am interested in volunteering for:

- Career Networking
- Fund Raising Activities
- Legislative Advocacy Network
- Local Alumni Chapter Area
- Parents’ Association
- Reunion Planning Committee
- Society of African American Alumni
- Student Mentoring Programs
- Student Recruitment

I would also like to become a sustaining member of the **WKU Alumni Association**.

- $25 Annual Membership
- $500 Lifetime Membership
- Lifetime Membership ($115 per year for 5 years)

Enclosed is my tax deductible gift of $___________________.

I would like to contribute to the **WKU Annual Fund**. Enclosed is my tax-deductible gift of $____________ to be designated to ______________________________.

Name: _______________________________________________________________________________________________

Marital Status:_____________ Grad Year/Degree:_____________ Maiden Name: ___________________

Spouse’s Name (if applicable): _______________________________________________________________________

Street Address: _______________________________________________________________________________________

City, State, Zip: _______________________________________________________________________________________

Phone Number: _______________________________________________________________________________________

Email Address: _______________________________________________________________________________________

Employer:________________________________________________________Title: _______________________________

Business Address: _____________________________________________________________________________________

City, State, Zip: _______________________________________________________________________________________

Business Phone: _____________________________________________________________________________________

Business Email: _____________________________________________________________________________________

Children and their birthdates: _______________________________________________________________________

Please contact the WKU Office of Alumni Relations and Annual Giving at 888.WKU.ALUM (958.2586) with any questions.
The Western Kentucky University Alumni Association has many opportunities for you to get involved in the life of the institution. From local alumni chapters to continuing education, a variety of programs and services are designed to meet the needs of nearly every alumnus.

Please indicate on the back of this card your areas of interest, fold and return to the Alumni Association. A staff member will contact you to discuss upcoming programs and events.

Thank you for your interest in WKU!
It's never too early or late to come home to the Hill...

Get involved with your WKU Alumni Association today!