



HONORING A LEGACY OF LEADERSHIP

Recognizing More Than 33 Years of Service

Always quietly leading by example, Brenda Lee has been at the helm of The University of Toledo Foundation since 1991. Her guidance has led the Foundation through numerous challenges impacting higher education through the years, but her unwavering dedication and expertise has continued to steer the organization to ongoing success.

Originally serving as director of administrative services and as the Foundation's first, full-time employee, she can truly say she has helped build the organization, impacting countless lives by working to continue the UToledo legacy and supporting the organization's mission to provide an affordable education for our students.

Joel Epstein, Foundation emeritus trustee, was instrumental in hiring Brenda for her initial role and shared, "When Brenda arrived she did not know some of the challenges she would face. Despite these, Brenda managed them with exceptional composure. Regardless of the burden on the Foundation or the evolving nature of our structure, Brenda has undoubtedly proved to be the ideal candidate for the role."

In 1993, she was promoted to executive

director and in 2003 was named president of the Foundation. During several points in her tenure, Brenda also served as interim vice president of institutional advancement, overseeing alumni and development efforts in 2001-2002, 2014 and 2016-2017.

Over the past three decades, assets under management by the Foundation have grown from \$30 million to more than \$700 million; the number of funds managed has also increased from 500 to over 2,300. Brenda was also instrumental in the merger of the UToledo Foundation with The Medical College of Ohio Foundation in 2007.

"Brenda is a leader who has the respect of the entire community. Her decision-making balances what is best for the Foundation and the University. The best in philanthropic leadership," said Vern Snyder, former UToledo vice president for advancement.

Brenda has not only been recognized for her incredible impact on campus, but has also been honored by her peers. In 2004, the University community honored Brenda with the Alice H. Skeens University Outstanding

Woman Award. The award was named in honor of prolific leader, Alice Skeens, who served the university for nearly five decades as a professor, administrator and advisor, recognizing women providing outstanding service and leadership. A fitting honor for someone who dedicated much of their career to supporting the programs and resources that help students gain the most from their UToledo education.

The Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) announced Brenda S. Lee as one of only two recipients for the 2024 CASE Commonfund College and University Foundation Award.



Brenda S. Lee (right) receiving the 2024 CASE Commonfund College and University Foundation Award.

The award recognizes individuals who have made valuable contributions through best practices, distinguished service and volunteer leadership to the college and university foundation field. The award is presented each year at the annual CASE Conference for College and University Foundations.

“The UToledo Foundation would not be what it is today without Brenda’s unwavering dedication to the University and our students,” Interim President Matt Schroeder said. “We simply cannot thank her enough for building up this organization to provide the critical support needed to advance UToledo.”

Not only has Brenda continued to serve the University community but she has been a strong supporter of the greater Toledo community as well. Past volunteer work in the region includes AAA of Northwest Ohio, Diocese of Toledo Finance Council, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Claire’s Day Inc., Gesu Parish Finance Committee,

Gesu School Council, Hospice of N.W. Ohio, National Committee for Institutionally Related Foundations, St. Joseph Parish Finance Committee, St. Ursula Academy Foundation Board, Toledo Opera, Sunset Retirement Communities and YWCA. Her active role in northwest Ohio shows her dedication to the region and proves her influence extends well beyond our campuses.

“Brenda has been an instrumental part of the Foundation for many years. Her presence will be greatly missed, but her impact will be felt for years to come,” said Floyd Akins, vice president for advancement.

The University of Toledo and The University of Toledo Foundation extend their heartfelt gratitude to Brenda for her years of dedicated service and the profound impact she has made on both the University and the community. Her legacy of leadership and commitment to education will continue to inspire future generations.

Save the Date!

**Thursday, Dec. 12
5–7 p.m.**

Join us to celebrate Brenda’s retirement at our Open House Celebration.

Kindly RSVP by Dec. 6:



utevents.org/retire



In lieu of gifts, donations can be made to the Lee Family Scholarship Fund: tol-edo.org/lee-fund

2024 ANNUAL REPORT

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Photo captured by David Navarre, Flanders Creative

TOTAL FOUNDATION ASSETS

\$778.8M

TOTAL SUPPORT PROVIDED TO UTOLEDO

\$30.3M

TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS

\$21.6M

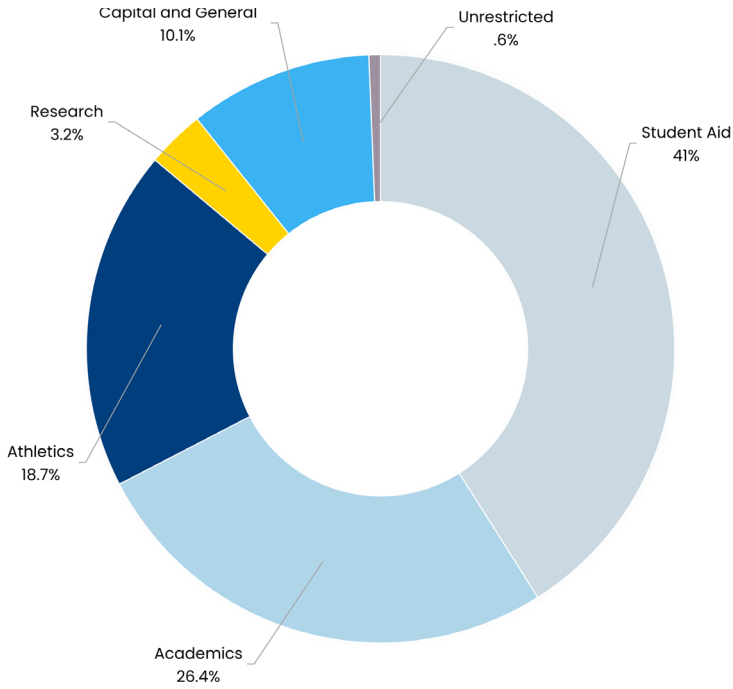
TOTAL ENDOWMENT

\$625.1M

INVESTMENTS UNDER MANAGEMENT

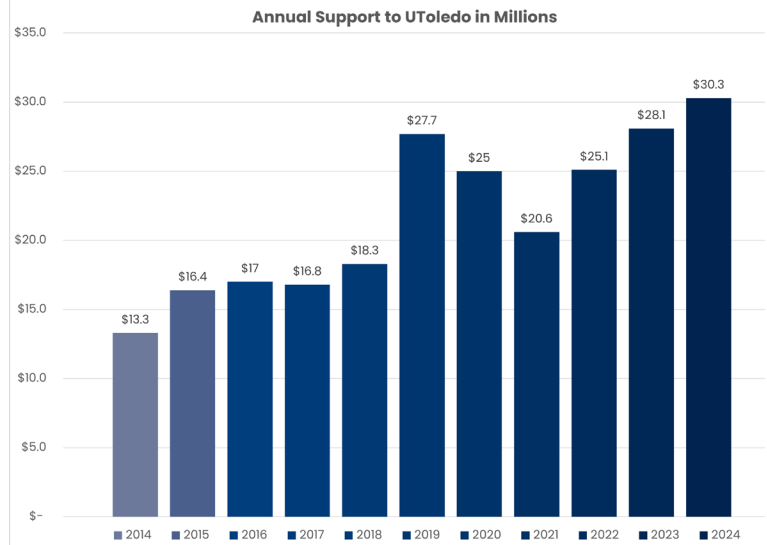
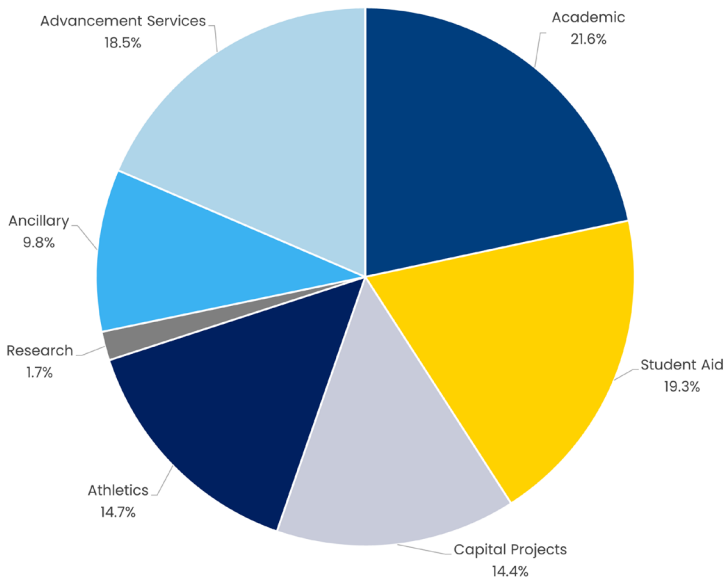
\$711.4M

UTOLEDO SUPPORTERS INVEST IN



Fund Purpose	Amount	Percentage
Student Aid	\$8,889,800	41.0%
Academics	\$5,712,800	26.4%
Athletics	\$4,053,100	18.7%
Capital and General	\$2,185,500	10.1%
Research	\$690,700	3.2%
Unrestricted	\$137,200	.6%
Total	\$21,669,100	100.0%

OUR SUPPORT FOR UTOLEDO



CONSOLIDATED FINANCIALS

Revenue		
Investment	\$38,599,500	56.3%
Contributions	\$21,355,000	31.1%
Ancillary	\$4,645,500	6.8%
Rents	\$2,254,600	3.3%
Grant Income	\$1,706,000	2.5%
Total Revenue	\$68,560,600	100.0%

Expenses		
Support to UToledo	\$17,882,000	50.7%
Management and General	\$8,786,700	24.9%
Fundraising	\$5,628,500	16.0%
Ancillary	\$2,962,800	8.4%
Total Expense	\$35,260,000	100.0%

MORE ABOUT UTOLEDO



Financial information provided is pulled from The University of Toledo Foundation annual financial statement. To review the full audited financial statements please visit utfoundation.org/financials.