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Furman United bolsters financial aid

Furman University

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Furman United bolsters financial aid

Furman United was launched in July as a two-year effort to increase aid for students who are experiencing financial hardship caused by the economic downturn.

This year, 145 returning students faced an average increase in financial need of more than \$10,000 each. Seventy-one others applied for aid for the first time, and even more students have requested assistance since the start of the school year.

Furman United seeks to raise at least \$400,000 in each of the next two years to help

these students. The board of trustees has led the initial push, and faculty, alumni, staff, parents and even students have responded by stretching their annual giving and designating the additional support to Furman United.

To date, Furman United donors have committed more than \$300,000 for the first year. Such generosity is making a difference, as is evident from this comment from Caroline Davis '10 (pictured): "It was important for me to finish Furman with my class, and Furman United donors made



that possible. There are many students like me who struggle financially and who would be incredibly appreciative of help through Furman United."

To support Furman United, visit www.furman-united.com or contact john.kemp@furman.edu, (864) 294-3717.

Internship programs open doors for students

Internships are becoming an increasingly important part of a college experience, and Furman students are pursuing internships in record numbers.

Susan Zeiger, internship program director, points out that internships are more than just a way to enhance a résumé. "They are an avenue to apply academic learning and a chance for students to test their talents, interests and skills," she says. "Students gain a clearer picture of how they learn, how they interact with others, and what they like and don't like about the daily work of organizations."

During the past two years, Furman students have filled more than 1,100 internships (paid and unpaid) across the globe. Statistics from recent surveys of graduating classes show that more than 60 percent of Furman students work in an internship during their college years.

Furman supports approximately 90 summer interns each year through the Furman Advantage program, with stipends from \$1,500 to \$3,000.

However, says Zeiger, "We receive more applications than can be funded, and many of our students work in unpaid internships. Some students also don't pursue summer internship opportunities because they need to earn more money through traditional summer jobs to assist with their educational costs."

One goal of Because Furman Matters is to expand support for internship programs. Zeiger says, "We already have a good network of alumni, parents and friends, and we're reaching out in an effort to make more connections and open more doors for internship opportunities."

To support internship programs at Furman, contact susan.brady@furman.edu, (864) 294-3693.

Strengthening Teaching Resources

One of the key strategic initiatives of Because Furman Matters is strengthening teaching resources to enhance the educational experience for all students and professors.

Teaching resources encompass a range of possibilities, from support for endowed professorships to funding for student internships, student/faculty research, and more. As the chart shows, the campaign is working to ensure that faculty and students continue to benefit from these opportunities.

To learn more about sponsoring teaching resources at Furman, contact susan.brady@furman.edu, (864) 294-3693.

Dollars in millions

