

## MOUNT UNION CELEBRATES 30 YEARS AS A U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT TOP COLLEGE

With the announcement of the 2021 rankings, Mount Union has been recognized as a top college by U.S. News and World Report for 30 consecutive years.

Mount Union was ranked 10<sup>th</sup> among Midwest Regional Colleges in U.S. News and World Report's 2021 Best Colleges rankings, up three spots from the 2020 rankings. The Midwest Regional category includes institutions from Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.

The institution was also ranked 15<sup>th</sup> for Best Value in the region and fourth in the state of Ohio. This ranking takes into account the ratio of quality to price, the percentage of undergraduates that receive need-based aid, and the total scholarship/need-based aid received by students.

Mount Union was also once again ranked as a Top Performer on Social Mobility, which was introduced by U.S. News and World Report as part of its 2020 rankings. The ranking measures how well schools graduated students who received federal Pell Grants.

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*“Being ranked by U.S. News and World Report for 30 consecutive years is a rewarding testament to the University's commitment to past, current, and future Purple Raiders.”*

**- President Tom Botzman**

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## MOUNT UNION NURSES ACHIEVE 100% LICENSURE PASS RATE ONCE AGAIN

For the third time in the past four years, graduates of Mount Union's Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program achieved a 100% first-time passage rate on the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX).

Every student who has graduated from Mount Union's BSN program has passed the NCLEX, with more than 99% passing the exam on the first time in the history of the program. The overall first-time pass rate is at the top in the region and drastically surpasses the state average of 86.25% and the national average of 91.22%.

“To our most recent alumni we, your Department of Nursing faculty and University family, could not be prouder of you,” said Dr. Tim Meyers, professor and chair of the Department of Nursing at Mount Union. “In a time that will go down as



one of, if not the most, challenging academic periods in his history, you demonstrated what it means to be a Purple Raider. You are proof that the best nurses wear purple.”





## AKRON NORTH WELCOMES MOUNT UNION AS A SISTER UNIVERSITY

Mount Union is proud to announce its unique partnership with Akron Public Schools' Akron North High School as a sister university.

As a sister university, Mount Union will work closely with the school and teachers to develop classroom lessons that have integrated, career-themed content; design and present problem-based learning opportunities that incorporate thought-provoking, real-world problem-solving activities; and support the implementation of a college admission testing preparation program.

“A sister university greatly enhances the academic experience for our students. We are thrilled at the news that the University of Mount Union has agreed to partner with us at North High School,” said Superintendent David James. “We feel this is going to be an effective approach to our students’ path toward higher learning.”

The collaboration between Akron Public Schools and Mount Union was formed with the help of the United Way of Summit County. The United Way serves as a link between the College and Career Academies of Akron and local businesses to provide hands-on learning opportunities for students and to strengthen the education-to-employment pipeline in Summit County.

## FULLY-ONLINE MBA EARNS HLC, ODHE APPROVAL; APPLICATION NOW OPEN

Mount Union is pleased to announce its fully-online Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree program has earned approval from the Higher Learning Commission and Ohio Department of Higher Education. The program is slated to begin in May of 2021, and applications are now being accepted.

“It is always beneficial when we can introduce new offerings to help graduate students seeking career advancement,” said Mount Union President Tom Botzman. “We recognize that earning this approval is a privilege, and Mount Union will provide an exceptional academic experience to those professionals placing their trust in us.”

The MBA program has been developed on the historical success of Mount Union’s business-related programs. Currently, nearly 15% of all undergraduate students are enrolled in a major offered by Mount Union’s Department of Business, accredited by the Accreditation of Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP). Mount Union’s business programs were ranked in the top 10% of all programs nationally for best value in College Factual’s 2021 rankings, with the marketing program being named the best value in Ohio.

Learn more about the programs and apply today by visiting [mountunion.edu/mba-business-analytics](http://mountunion.edu/mba-business-analytics) or [mountunion.edu/mba-leadership-and-innovation](http://mountunion.edu/mba-leadership-and-innovation).

“We are excited to be launching the MBA program and look forward to welcoming our first cohort of students. In today’s rapidly-evolving business and social environments, our program offers flexibility and affordability, providing opportunities for working professionals to accelerate their careers by expanding their knowledge base and skill sets.”



- Dr. Anne Christo-Baker  
Professor and Chair, Department of Business

Read more about Mount Union’s graduate program success on page 10.

## A LOVE STORY AND LEGACY: DAVE '62 AND KAREN (ANDERSON '69) JONES

Standing in his fraternity brother's doorway at the Alpha Tau Omega (ATO) house one day, Dave Jones '62 happened to look out the window and noticed the most beautiful woman he had ever seen. He made a mental note to look her up.

The next day, Dave and fraternity brother Bob Berrodin '62 walked into a local diner, and there the woman was again.

"I felt it was a sign," Dave said. "I didn't know who she was, but I wanted to."

Dave went back to the ATO house and started looking through the directory. He finally found her photo and learned her name was Karen Anderson '69, but he did not know where she was staying on campus.

"I just started calling the women's dorms and asking for Karen Anderson until I got the right one," Dave laughed.

Dave and Karen went to a Mount Union basketball game for their first date. At the time, Karen had a cold, but Dave said he really wanted to give her a kiss good-night. The next day, he woke up with the cold. Karen and Dave would laugh about this for years to come. By the third date, Dave said he knew he had to have Karen in his life for the long haul.

Karen and Dave were married his senior year and had their first son, Brian, just ten months later. Dave's career in pharmaceutical sales moved their family all over the country, but he said Karen was "a trooper" and helped make each new house their home. Over the next decade, Karen and Dave welcomed three more

sons into the world. First Scott, then Derek, and finally their youngest son, Craig. Between their four sons, the Joneses have nine grandchildren ages four to 26 of whom they are so proud.

Sadly, Karen was diagnosed with dementia in 2001. Dave kept her at their home in North Canton, Ohio for many years, but after a while, it became too difficult to look after her. Dave moved Karen to a memory care unit about two years ago.

This past spring, COVID-19 hit the facility, and Karen contracted the virus. Dave begged the administration to let him sign a waiver to go in and hold Karen one last time, but they would not allow it. Dave did not want Karen to be alone in her last moments. He felt heaven granted him this wish. He connected with the facility's head nurse who spoke to Dave on the phone and held Karen's hand as she took her last breaths.

"I received 104 sympathy cards after she passed. They were comforting me, but they were honoring Karen," Dave said. "She was a bright light in so many people's lives. I always told her she had a helper gene. She put everyone else's needs before her own. She was an incredible person."

True to her selfless nature, Karen made Mount Union the beneficiary of a life



insurance policy to support current and future Raiders upon her passing. The Karen Jones Endowed Scholarship will benefit students for years to come. Dave has also made provisions in his will to add to the scholarship.

Though Dave notes that he appreciated his Mount Union experience, his professors and friends, loves the Raider community, and always enjoys coming back to football games, he said Karen is who inspires him to stay connected and give back.

"Mount Union is where I found her," Dave said. "We maintained coming back and forth for sports and events, but Karen was the draw. No doubt about it."



# CAMPAIGN GOAL

**\$10 MILLION  
EXCELLENCE**  
Facility, classroom,  
and lab enhancements

**\$7 MILLION  
INNOVATION**  
Academic and  
co-curricular programs



**\$8 MILLION  
MOUNT UNION FUND**  
Annual support for areas  
of immediate need

**\$25 MILLION  
OPPORTUNITY**  
Scholarships and  
financial assistance

# CAMPAIGN PROGRESS

**\$12.3 MILLION  
EXCELLENCE**

**\$6.5 MILLION  
INNOVATION**



**\$6 MILLION  
MOUNT UNION FUND**

**\$14.8 MILLION  
OPPORTUNITY**

# SAVE THE DATE

Join fellow alumni and friends and the Office of Advancement for a complimentary two-part estate planning and charitable giving educational webinar series.

## ESTATE PLANNING 101

Tuesday, January 19, 2021 at noon

## ESTATE PLANNING 201

Thursday January 28, 2021 at 5 p.m.

Discover strategies for benefitting your favorite philanthropic causes, such as Mount Union, while planning for a secure financial future. This event will feature industry leaders and two of Mount Union's own.



Dan Griffith '99, JD  
Senior Vice President and  
Director of Wealth Strategy at  
Huntington Bank



Jon Cross '03, CFP, CLU, ChFC  
President and Wealth  
Management Advisor at  
The Cross Wealth Management Group

Registration and details to follow.

# AFFORDABLE WAYS TO HELP

*Inspire Minds and Transform Lives*

## INCLUDE MOUNT UNION IN YOUR WILL OR LIVING TRUST

One of the easiest and most common ways for you to support the future of Mount Union is by remembering us in your will. A bequest allows you to retain ownership and use your property during your life while also benefiting Mount in the future. Ask your attorney to draft a codicil or amendment to an existing document or to include your gift in any new plans.

## NAME MOUNT AS A BENEFICIARY OF A RETIREMENT ACCOUNT

An effective way to support Mount Union, naming us as a beneficiary of your retirement account(s) qualifies as a charitable deduction, thereby saving estate taxes. By avoiding the income taxes on those assets, it relieves your family and loved ones of any future tax burden. Simply contact your administrator for a change-of-beneficiary form, and add Mount Union and the percentage you would like us to receive.

## DESIGNATE US AS A BENEFICIARY OF A LIFE INSURANCE POLICY

As an asset of your estate, an insurance policy is taxable at your passing. However, if the policy is a gift to Mount Union, your estate avoids paying taxes on the value of the policy and receives a charitable deduction for the gift. A gift of life insurance can be made by simply naming Mount Union as the beneficiary of your policy and is a low-cost way to make a sizable gift to support our students.

## ESTABLISH A CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITY (CGA) AT MOUNT UNION

With a CGA, Mount Union agrees to make fixed payments for life to you or you and your spouse in exchange for a gift of cash or securities. Depending on your gift, you may also enjoy the benefit of mostly tax-free payments. After all payments have been made, Mount Union will receive the remaining value of your gift to continue to help prepare our students for fulfilling lives, meaningful work, and responsible citizenship.

## CREATE A CHARITABLE REMAINDER TRUST (CRT) WITH US

The most versatile charitable giving tool, a CRT can help you avoid capital gains tax on the sale of appreciated assets, generate regular increased income for you, provide you with a charitable income tax deduction, and fulfill your philanthropic objectives. In addition, a CRT can make payments to your heirs for their lives or a term of years either through fixed payments or payments based on the market value of the trust each year. Better yet, your CRT will be invested to produce and take advantage of growth opportunities, and additional contributions can be made at any time.

If you have questions or would like more information, please contact Bethany Leslie, director of The Mount Union Fund and planned giving, at [lesliebe@mountunion.edu](mailto:lesliebe@mountunion.edu) or (330) 823-8440.