

A message from President M. Roy Wilson

President <president@wayne.edu>

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To: employees@lists.wayne.edu <employees@lists.wayne.edu>; currentstudents@lists.wayne.edu <currentstudents@lists.wayne.edu>;

Dear members of the Wayne State community,

I am delighted to inform you that Wayne State University received a \$7.5 million commitment from philanthropist and chair of the Detroit Jazz Festival Foundation, Gretchen Valade, to transform the university's programming, teaching and scholarship in jazz performance and education.

Gretchen is a singular woman—a philanthropist, entrepreneur and jazz patron extraordinaire. This incredible gift will support the larger goals of Wayne State's cultural expansion, the Hilberry Gateway Performance Complex, a \$50-million initiative first envisioned through a generous planning grant from the Kresge Foundation and supported by a number of our friends and colleagues.

In recognition of her incredible generosity, the Hilberry Theatre will become the Gretchen Valade Jazz Center. Through a \$5 million portion of the gift, the Valade Jazz Center will be remodeled during the final phase of the initiative to accommodate jazz acoustics, host an array of high-profile concerts, and serve as an educational hub for Wayne State's jazz students and faculty. Gretchen's gift is a critical step in the Hilberry project and ensures that jazz musicians, in addition to our dancers, actors, lighting designers and vocalists, will perform in a world-class venue.

In addition, Gretchen has committed \$1.5 million to fund an Endowed Chair position in Jazz Studies at Wayne State and \$1 million to launch an endowed scholarship to attract and support talented student musicians.

On behalf of the entire Wayne State community, I would like to offer my warmest thanks to Gretchen for her pivotal gift and all her support for the great tradition of jazz in Detroit.

M. Roy Wilson
President