



Office of the President

4200 Faculty/Administration Building
656 West Kirby
Detroit, MI 48202
313-577-2230
president@wayne.edu

<First_name> <Last_name>
<Street_Line1><Street_Line2>
<City><State><Zip>

Dear <First_name>,

It's a unique privilege to serve as the president of Wayne State University. While each year brings noteworthy achievements and events, 2018 has been particularly special for us. As we observe 150 years of academic excellence, we've had several opportunities to acknowledge our successes and celebrate our legacy.

It's important to reflect on the past, and we do so with an eye toward our future. This year also marked the culmination of a four-year fundraising campaign that raised \$750 million to support Wayne State's mission. Called Pivotal Moments, this campaign was focused on creating educational, research and community outreach opportunities that benefit our city and state, and keep Wayne State at the cutting edge in numerous fields, including health, business and the arts. It was an ambitious goal — one our Warriors responded to with energy and enthusiasm. Thanks to the tremendous contributions of alumni, faculty, students and supporters throughout the community, we met this goal ahead of schedule.

We already experience the benefits of many of these donations across campus. This fall, we opened the new home for the Mike Ilitch School of Business. This state-of-the-art building, located in the District Detroit, was made possible thanks to a \$40 million gift from Mike and Marian Ilitch — the largest in our university's history and one of the top ten gifts ever to a public business school in the United States. Because of the Ilitches' support, Wayne State's already noteworthy business school now has a home steps away from leading corporations, as well as a new sport and entertainment management concentration for the M.B.A. program, keeping it at the forefront of entrepreneurial education.

Wayne State is also poised to revitalize Detroit's artistic community. The Hilberry Theatre — the oldest graduate repertory theatre in the United States — has long been home to renowned theatrical productions, concerts and recitals. Our historic theatre will become an even more vital part of Detroit's cultural scene through a new facility known as the Gateway Performance Complex. The renovation — which will include a new jazz performance area called Jazz Underground, made possible through a gift from Gretchen Valade — will expand Wayne State's facilities for the arts and further strengthen academic programs in theatre, dance and jazz, continuing an artistic legacy in Detroit.

A commitment to improving medical care has been part of Wayne State University since its inception, and our dedication to eradicating health disparities continues to deepen. In 2017, the Wayne Med-Direct program received a \$10 million gift from philanthropist Mort Harris to assist students as they pursue their dreams of becoming physicians. This highly competitive program recruits high school students with a passion for addressing health disparities among our nation's most vulnerable populations. Students receive full scholarships and other financial support, in addition to admission to undergraduate studies in our College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and, subsequently, our School of Medicine. These students will leave prepared to provide quality care as the physician leaders of tomorrow and conduct research that leads to lifesaving medical breakthroughs.

In recent years, Detroit's commitment to technological innovation has intensified. To that end, James and Patricia Anderson donated more than \$25 million for entrepreneurial offerings at Wayne State to ensure researchers have the tools to move research from the lab to real-world applications. The James and Patricia Anderson Engineering Ventures Institute continues to reward innovation and entrepreneurship, preparing students for success and creating startups that revitalize Detroit.

This support continues to position Wayne State to lead in a variety of arenas, transforming Detroit and creating leaders in numerous fields. But more than that, the success of the Pivotal Moments campaign shows the strong relationship between Wayne State and its community. From students and staff to alumni and supporters throughout the nation, people are energized about what's happening here. This campaign was more than just a celebration of great Wayne State moments — it's become a commitment to partner with us on exciting developments for years to come.

Universities would not thrive without these relationships, and I'm sure there are similar stories you can share about the women and men whose support is vital to your institution. I would enjoy hearing these stories. By celebrating these collaborations, we can continue to make contributions that change the world.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Roy Wilson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

M. Roy Wilson
President, Wayne State University