



In an unprecedented move, the Alumni Society Board of the College of the Liberal Arts voted unanimously at its April meeting to collectively contribute \$1 million to the College in support of the University's capital campaign, *For the Future: The Campaign for Penn State Students*. This is the first time the board has made a commitment of this magnitude, and the members hope they will serve as an example for their fellow Liberal Arts alumni and other alumni boards across the University.

"To the best of our knowledge, no other college based alumni society board at Penn State has set an overall campaign goal anywhere near this magnitude," said Katherine Genovese, '78 English, who chairs the board. "While some boards are funding scholarships or other specific projects, the vision and commitment by our members to support the College in this way is unparalleled."

While this is a first for a commitment of this size, it is not the first time that the board has bolstered the College with its generosity. In the 1990s, members of the board committed to endow a scholarship and establish an undergraduate enrichment fund and, as a result, more than sixty liberal arts students have received support from these funds. The Alumni Society Board again took the lead in 2004 when it adopted an annual giving expectation of board members.

The board—together with members of the Sparks Society (its emeritus arm)—uses funds contributed annually to also support student-focused programs such as a year-long mentoring program and several awards that honor alumni for service to Penn State and service to society. Recognizing the impact these gifts have made, and the ever increasing need for private philanthropy to provide a bright future for Penn State students, the board wanted to take their commitment to a new level during this campaign.

"The board members are well informed about the challenges facing higher education and those particular to Penn State," said Dean Susan Welch. "They care deeply about students and faculty, and their generosity sends a strong message to the greater alumni community about the importance of private philanthropy in ensuring that students enjoy the kinds of excellent academic and enrichment experiences that are the hallmark of a Penn State liberal arts education."

The College of the Liberal Arts Alumni Society was formed in 1972; its board of directors has 22 members from eleven states, an array of class years, and a variety of academic disciplines within the liberal arts. Alumni who have an interest in assisting the board in its support of the For the Future Campaign can contact Chris Gamble, Assistant Director of Alumni Relations, at cvg4@psu.edu or 814-863-1827.