

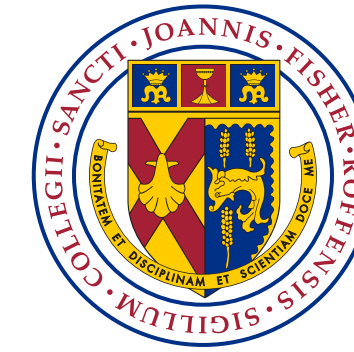


**20** PRESIDENT'S  
**21** REPORT  
ST. JOHN FISHER COLLEGE



## FISHER FACT

2021 marked the 70th anniversary of the opening of Kearney Hall, named after the Most Reverend James E. Kearney, then Bishop of Rochester. Over the years, Kearney Hall has served many purposes in addition to classrooms and offices: it housed the library, the cafeteria, the campus club, and even served as a residence for Basilians then students. Since its opening, one constant has remained: the location of the President's Office.



# 2021 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

ST. JOHN FISHER COLLEGE

## Reimagining · Reenvisioning · Renewing

Today's Goodness, Discipline, and Knowledge	6
Spotlight on Fisher	13
Meet Fisher 2025	14
Fisher 2021 Outcomes	16
A Fisher First	18
Transformations Abound	22
Mastering the Online	24

From the President	4
Financials	26



## From the President

It is my pleasure to share with you our 2021 President's Report: "Reimagining. Reenvisioning. Renewing."

2020 and 2021; years that—for all of us—will be years to remember. At St. John Fisher College, they have been spent reimagining our day to day operations, reenvisioning the delivery of instruction, and renewing our commitment to our students to provide them with the transformative classroom, residential, and campus life experiences they have come to expect.

Like all colleges and universities, businesses and organizations alike, Fisher faced new challenges amid the COVID-19 pandemic both when we shifted to online operations in March 2020 at the start of the pandemic and when we looked ahead to our reopening in August 2020. It was another milestone in the pandemic when we successfully welcomed all students and employees to campus for the fall 2021 semester.

Throughout the pandemic, countless members of our campus community also provided valuable service to the greater Rochester community and beyond, lending their time, talent, and expertise. The commitment, creativity, and flexibility of all has been essential to our success in this period. I am so proud of our students and my faculty and staff colleagues for their dedication to their work, studies, each other, and our local community through it all.

In the last year, we held nine Commencement ceremonies for both the Classes of 2020 and 2021, officially adding our most recent graduates to our alumni network that today totals 33,000 strong. We welcomed one of our largest incoming first-year classes – and our most diverse to date.

We launched iFisher: Next Generation Learning Initiative, the College's approach to transforming teaching and learning. We secured millions of dollars in grant funding to support innovative and vital programs that benefit our students and the broader community. And we continued to receive accolades and recognition that places us among the best institutions in the region, state, and nation. It was an extraordinary year in every respect.

Finally, we have continued to be blessed with philanthropic gifts that have been vital to our efforts to enhance our campus, shape the student experience, and create immediate impact. Our Fisher Forward comprehensive campaign has reached the \$70 million threshold toward our \$75 million goal.

The results of our collective efforts, the resiliency and commitment of our students, and the unwavering support provided by our donors, alumni, and friends have allowed us to see our students succeed, our College thrive, and our supporters continue to believe in our mission. Above all, we were reminded of the value and impact of a Fisher education and all that it affords our students and each of us who are fortunate enough to serve at the College.

On behalf of my faculty and staff colleagues, and most importantly our students, thank for your continuing support of St. John Fisher College.

Kind regards,



Gerard J. Rooney, Ph.D.  
President







# GOODNESS

discipline · knowledge

## Dancing at Home, Together

In every way, the 2021 Teddi Dance for Love was one for the history books.

Held Friday, February 19 through Saturday, February 20, Teddi 39 was the first-ever virtual dance marathon, and the participants raised a record-breaking \$123,641.93 for Camp Good Days and Special Times. Proceeds from the fundraiser support the Teddi Project, which sends children on a weeklong trip to Florida.

The annual event saw big changes due to COVID-19 safety guidelines. While the small group of committee captains were able to dance together in-person, the majority of dancers tuned in to a Zoom live stream from the event's headquarters in Cleary Family Auditorium, the place where Teddi began 39 years ago.

As the 24-hour dance marathon came to a close, the excitement was no less palpable, the sense of accomplishment no less present.

Emily Trotman '21 served as chair of the dance and said that the dedication of the captains, committee members, and dancers made meeting their fundraising goal possible.

“Even though we weren't all together, we wouldn't have raised this amount if it wasn't for our committee,” she said. “The dedication our captains showed and the spirit of our committee members on Zoom kept us going throughout the dance.”

2022 marks the 40th anniversary of this longest running student-led tradition on the Fisher campus, taking place on February 18-19, 2022.



goodness  
**DISCIPLINE**  
knowledge

### Cardinals Soaring High Again

While things may have appeared different on the surface, the underlying current of competition and excellence remained ever present within St. John Fisher College Intercollegiate Athletics during the course of the 2020-21 year in spite of challenges created by the COVID-19 pandemic.

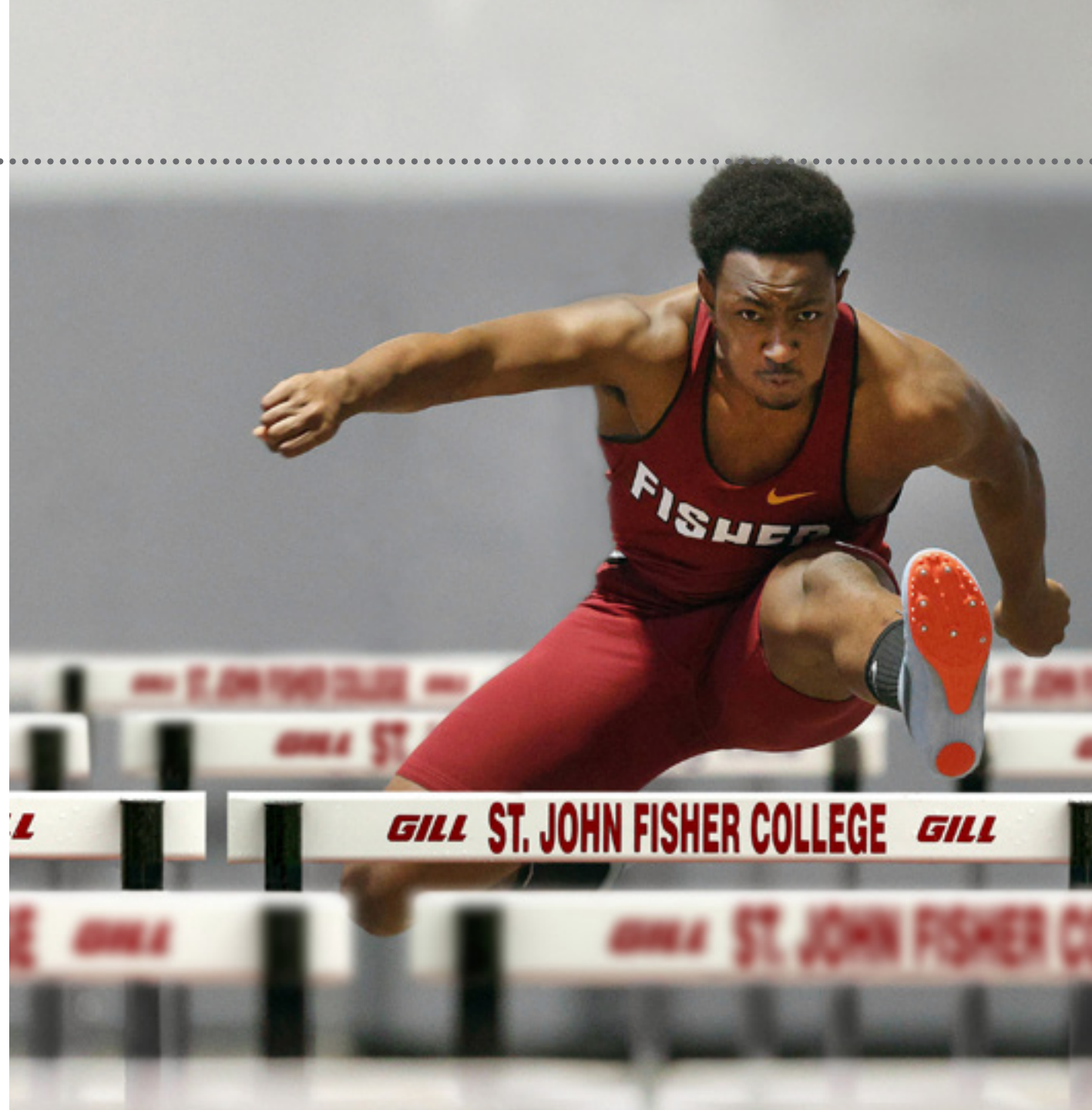
From a competition standpoint, Fisher was a pioneer within its own athletic conference and beyond, as the College was one of very few teams across the NCAA Division III landscape to have 23 of its 24 sports active and competing.

Overall, the Cardinals had a record-setting year by any standard as they won 11 Empire 8 Championships and had five teams compete in the

NCAA Championship, including the women's lacrosse team who advanced to the NCAA Division III Final Four. Baseball claimed its third Empire 8 title overall while field hockey, men's lacrosse, men's soccer, and women's volleyball each hoisted the conference crown for the second time in their respective histories. On the track, the men's and women's teams swept the Empire 8 Championship in both the indoor and outdoor seasons, while the women's cross country program earned its first-ever Empire 8 Championship. The women's lacrosse team continued its dominance in league play after winning the Empire 8 Championship for the ninth consecutive season and 11th time overall.

The Athletic Department's commitment to winning was further rewarded this summer after securing its second straight Empire 8 Commissioner's Cup trophy, which is awarded to the top athletic department in the conference annually.

Fisher's athletic performances captured the attention of nearly every national body in 2021, as the Cardinals were well-represented within numerous national polls. At the conclusion of the year, Fisher had at one point been ranked or receiving votes in nine of its 24 sports with men's volleyball and men's and women's lacrosse each being ranked within the top 10 in their respective sports.



Academically, the department continued to demonstrate its commitment to excellence as 187 student-athletes were named to the Empire 8 President's List during the spring for maintaining a cumulative grade-point average of 3.75 or higher on a 4.0 scale. Additionally, the College had all of its 24 athletic programs honored by the Empire 8 for having maintained a team GPA of at least 3.2.

Over the course of the 2020-21 year, Fisher boasted 13 Empire 8 Player of the Year winners, seven Empire 8 Rookie of the Year selections, three student-athletes named Defensive Player of the Year, and earned 12 Empire 8 Coaching Staff of the Year distinctions – the most in the College's rich history.

Furthermore, Fisher had 17 student-athletes combine to earn 28 All-America honors including four Academic

All-Americans, which is the highest accolade a student-athlete can receive. Junior Adam Zebrowski was named the unanimous Division III Player of the Year and went on to become the third player in Fisher's history to be drafted by Major League Baseball. Additionally, senior Kyle Rollins won an individual national championship in the high jump in May to become the College's first-ever two-time national champion. Sophomore Lauren Swartz also made history as she was named an Elite 90 winner by the NCAA as she had the highest cumulative grade-point average of any participating player at the Women's Lacrosse Final Four this spring, the first Fisher athlete to achieve this recognition.



goodness · discipline  
**KNOWLEDGE**

### Trustees Ranking Scholars

In May 2020, like so many colleges and universities across the nation, Fisher postponed its 66th Commencement Ceremony, making a promise to the Class of 2020 that an in-person ceremony would be held when it was safe to do so. On September 18, 2021, during the class' first Alumni Weekend, the College made good on that promise and welcomed over 170 graduates back to campus to celebrate their achievements. Among them were the eight recipients of the Trustees Awards - the highest honors bestowed to baccalaureate students during their time at the College. The Trustees Distinguished Scholar Award is given to graduating seniors with the highest

cumulative GPA based on at least 100 graded credits earned at St. John Fisher College. Recipients included Natalie Anne Guzelak, a biology major who minored in chemistry and psychology; Maxwell G. Howe, a biochemistry major; Caitlyn N. Kenville, a nursing major; Allen Robert Murphy, a biology major with a chemistry minor; and Nicolette Rochelle Pecor, a marketing major who minored in economics. All five students graduated with Summa Cum Laude honors. The recipients of the Trustees Ranking Scholar Award were Crystal Marie Lane, a nursing major; Brian L. Redmond, an adolescence education and history double major who graduated with Summa Cum Laude honors; and

Brittany Ann Whitbeck, a nursing major. Trustee Ranking Scholars have the highest cumulative GPA regardless of the number of graded credits earned at the College.

Two of these scholars, Pecor and Murphy, have found early success in their lives after Fisher.

Pecor remained in Rochester, and is working as a sales consultant at an employee benefits company where she works primarily on behalf of the carrier with brokers whose clients are looking to offer benefits to their employees. She says she felt very prepared leaving Fisher and that it was during a job fair at a sales competition she attended through the



### FISHER FACT

Students can choose from 39 undergraduate majors, 11 pre-professional programs, and a variety of master's and doctoral programs.

“I’ve come away from Fisher with a sense of nostalgia and a sense of gratitude for everything I’ve learned.”



College where she landed an interview and ultimately, the position.

“I was able to learn skills at Fisher that were diverse enough to translate to a number of jobs within the realm of marketing or sales, including the job I chose. Perhaps more important than the information I learned through the textbooks were the skills developed studying them: time management, how to most effectively work with others, and what professors shared from their experience,” she says.

For Pecor, Fisher’s size proved to be a key strength of the College as she liked that it was small enough to get to know so many individuals and big enough where students are provided a lot of academic options.

“I’ve come away from Fisher with a sense of nostalgia and a sense of gratitude for everything I’ve learned. I hope Fisher continues to maintain the kind of environment I was able to experience during my time there so new students can have the same great experience,” she says.

Following a gap year, Murphy enrolled in the Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences at SUNY Buffalo for graduate school to pursue his medical degree. During the year, he continued his baseball career at Fisher thanks to continuing eligibility granted to athletes whose seasons were cut short due to COVID-19, and he worked with students with developmental disabilities at the Kessler Center in

Rochester. In addition, he tutored chemistry and biology students at Monroe Community College, and worked with the Monroe County Department of Health for the COVID-19 vaccine initiative as a health clerk. In short, he continued to embody goodness, discipline, and knowledge after leaving Fisher.

Now fully immersed in medical school, Murphy says that all he learned while at Fisher made his transition into medical school easier and that he has felt prepared to tackle his courses now thanks to his undergraduate experience as a biology major.

“Not only did the information from the courses help, but I was already accustomed to using multiple study strategies that have already aided me in keeping up with the rigor of medical school,” he says.

While not certain which medical specialty he will pursue just yet, he is most interested in being a part of direct patient care perhaps in endocrinology, psychiatry, emergency medicine, or sports medicine.



## SPOTLIGHT ON FISHER

Our light shines bright with awards and recognition from national publications like *U.S. News and World Report* and *Forbes.com*. Other honors came from *The Wall Street Journal/Times Higher Education*, *Washington Monthly*, and *Kiplinger’s*. *The Princeton Review* listed Fisher in the Best in the Northeast section of the Review’s “2022 Best Colleges: Region by Region” website.

The College was recognized for academic program quality, value, support given to military veterans, faculty/student research collaborations, the social mobility afforded to students, and service endeavors.

In addition, Fisher scored high marks from *Niche.com* earning the title of No. 1 campus food in New York State and No. 6 in the country for the third consecutive year.







## Who is #Fisher2025?

**596** first-year students!

**26** Urban Scholars in the program's second year.

**87%** living on campus.

**MOST** diverse class in Fisher history.

**Nursing, biology, sport management, psychology, and finance** are the most popular majors.

**100** students, faculty, staff, and alumni joined in on the Welcome Parade.

**FISHER**

### FISHER FACT

The Welcome Parade has become a new Fisher Move-In Weekend tradition. A sea of students, faculty, and staff lined campus roadways to greet new students and their families as they arrive on campus to begin their Fisher journey.

## Summer Research Program Strengthens Skills, Sharpens Focus

*Each summer, Fisher students have the opportunity to engage in independent or faculty-mentored research through the grant-funded Summer Research Program. Through this experience, students gain workforce readiness skills such as communication, critical thinking, and teamwork, setting them apart from their peers when it comes time to apply to graduate schools or jobs. Mia Donohue '24 participated in the summer 2021 program, and her work not only strengthened her skills, but provided her with clarity on what path was best for her.*

In summer 2021, then nursing major Mia Donohue '24, from West Seneca, New York, raised her hand for the opportunity to become a Presidential Research Fellow as part of the Summer Research Program through the Center for Student Research and Creative Work. Her work focused on identifying the capacity of local nonprofit health care organizations serving underrepresented populations to successfully seek and manage grants that will offer them resources to provide optimal care for their clientele.

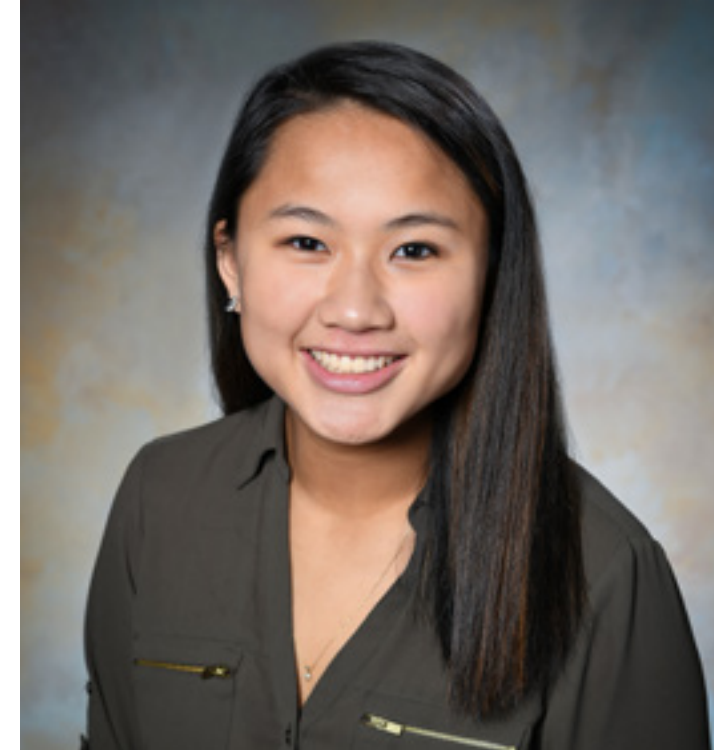
As a first step, she surveyed nonprofit health care organizations in the Greater Rochester area to better understand their ability to accept and manage grants, and to learn whether they had the staffing resources to manage grants and requests. Based on the results, she also wanted to

identify the skills necessary for this type of work and share with students who are looking to work in the nonprofit sector.

“Through this research, I learned that many of the smaller nonprofit organizations do not have individuals designated with this task and therefore would hope that by equipping Fisher students with these skills that it would be very marketable to their professional careers,” she said.

She credits the experience for honing her overall communication and collaboration skills, as she had the opportunity to work closely with several members of Fisher's faculty and staff throughout the project. In addition, she said that the requirement of having to complete the application for the Institutional Review Board sharpened her critical thinking skills.

For her part, Donahue is grateful for the experience because it opened her eyes even more to the importance of social determinants of health and the disparities that marginalized communities face daily. Her learnings, and the connections she made along the way, caused her to rethink her own professional path and she has since transitioned from a nursing major to a public health and psychology major with a minor in ethics and Spanish. When the research reveals



something to the students about themselves, the College considers it a win-win.

“I was motivated to explore this aspect of health care as I anticipate entering the health care industry and I am aware of the disparities that marginalized communities face in terms of accessibility and affordability to adequate health care. I personally believe that everyone should have access to affordable health care for themselves and their families,” said Donohue. “I cannot wait to begin working in this field and continue to break down the stigma surrounding mental health and overall improving conditions for marginalized individuals.”



The Center for Career and Academic Planning (CCAP) works to ensure excellent career design and readiness opportunities for students and position Fisher as a top-choice talent source for employer partners. In a year when career fairs and interviews changed drastically, CCAP helped students stay on course. Here's how...



**GET PREPPED**

CCAP hosted 85 learning presentations in the 2020-2021 academic year. This included virtual classes and workshops that covered everything from LinkedIn and making networking less awkward to mini-mock interviews and writing great résumé bullets. The most popular? **Workshops on diversity, equity, and inclusion.**



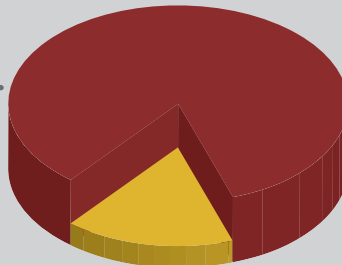
**FINDING THE FUTURE**

1,400 new employers joined Handshake, a Fisher resource connecting students directly with employers for jobs and internships, along with career guides and sample résumés. There are more than 8,000 employers in the resource.



**CLASS OF 2021: WHERE ARE THEY NOW?**

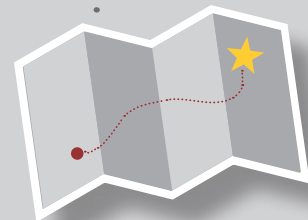
84% are employed, continuing their education, engaging in a year of service, or taking a gap year. 16% are still seeking opportunities. (Based on a knowledge rate of 87%.)



**DESTINATION UNLOCKED**

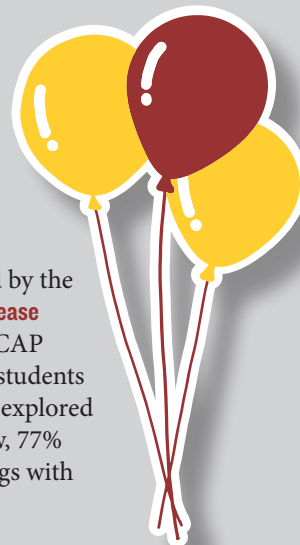
The top six career destinations for the Class of 2021 are:

- University of Rochester Medical Center
- Rochester Regional Health
- Paychex, Inc.
- The Bonadio Group
- Highland Hospital
- Dixon Schwabl + Company



**SURPRISE!**

Despite the challenges presented by the pandemic, CCAP saw a **59% increase** in one-on-one appointments. CCAP advisors were able to meet with students via video, a modality not widely explored prior to remote instruction. Now, 77% of students choose video meetings with advisors and mentors.



# Celebrating Philanthropy

## THE PRESIDENTS SOCIETY

The Presidents Society recognizes philanthropists whose total giving to the College is \$1 million or more. Twelve new members were honored during the second-ever induction celebration in 2021.

- Steven '84 and Susan Barnstead
- Leon Creek '60 †
- Carol (John) '76 and Michele Davidson
- Jack '73 and Donna DePeters
- Kevin '70 and Margaret (Peggy) Dugan
- Dr. Henry '64 and Lynn Hess
- James '71 and Kathleen Leo
- Walter and Barbara Parkes
- Dominic '60 and June '85 Piazza
- James Reis '79 and Robert Bisor
- Excellus BlueCross Blue Shield
- Max and Marian Farash Foundation

† Deceased



President Rooney and Vic Salerno '66, a 2019 Presidents Society inductee, unveil the most recent honorees.

**FISHER FACT.** In the largest fundraising effort in its history, generous donors have helped the College raise \$70 million toward the \$75 million goal for its Fisher Forward campaign.

**FISHER FORWARD**  
The Campaign for St. John Fisher College



# A FISHER FIRST

Longtime member of the St. John Fisher College Board of Trustees, Diana Nole, was poised to take the helm as chair in summer 2020, never imagining she would help lead the College through a global pandemic. The same week that she assumed the title of the College's first female chair of the Board, she was appointed as executive vice president and general manager of the health care business of Nuance Communications, a global pioneer and leader

in conversational AI innovations that amplify human intelligence to increase productivity and security.

Nole brings to the chair role several decades of experience in executive and leadership positions. Prior to joining Nuance Communications, she served as chief executive officer at Wolters Kluwer Health, and as president of Carestream's Medical Digital division, a global leader in medical imaging systems.



life today. With that being said, I am deeply honored to be the first female Board Chair, especially being part of a first generation family to attend college – something that was so important to my parents. I hope that I can be a good role model to the students of St. John Fisher College as well as a good leader to the Board, Dr. Rooney, the administration, and faculty and staff.

## You assumed the chair responsibilities in the middle of the pandemic. How has that shaped your approach in your leadership of the Board?

**DN:** It has required us to be even more connected as a group so that we can lean on each other as we have all been in a state of learning and adapting. The views and insights of each member of the Board have been extremely important and helpful to me. At the same time, I have sincerely appreciated our collective approach to being decisive in our Board responsibilities so that we are able to support Dr. Rooney and the College as they needed to quickly react to the situation.

## In your view, how has the College managed and responded to COVID-19?

**DN:** In my view, and I know this is shared widely by the entire Board, the College has done a tremendous job of managing and responding to the situation. The development and execution of the College's plans has been thoughtful and thorough – always centering on the safety and well-being of the students and entire College community. The plans were developed as a group and in conjunction with the input and insights of local and national experts. I have also observed great accountability on the part of the College and an openness to continuing to learn in terms of things that can be improved going forward.

## What are your goals for your term as chair?

**DN:** I have had great Chairs that preceded me, leaders that have helped guide us towards the next growth pillars for the College. I want to continue to help the Board, Dr. Rooney, and the College to grow and strengthen in its mission to serve the students and the community. I would also like to see an even more diverse population of students attend this wonderful College and feel it is a welcoming environment for all.

# Q&A

## You have been involved on the St. John Fisher College Board of Trustees for many years. What is it about Fisher that keeps you so committed?

**DN:** The motto that students would be guided by the educational philosophy of the Basilian Fathers, “Teach me goodness, discipline, and knowledge,” really gives a great foundational purpose to the College

that is extremely relevant today. The College has continued to build on that while transforming itself into what it is today. While there are new ways of teaching and learning, Fisher still focuses on delivering an entire experience that allows students to achieve their goals and dreams. I sincerely enjoy being part of it as a member of the Board of Trustees.

## What does it mean to you to be the first female Board Chair in the history of the College?

**DN:** It's an interesting question because I have had so many amazing women that have been part of my life and career – family, colleagues, mentors, and bosses – so I owe a tremendous gratitude to them for helping me to get to where I am in



## FISHER FACT

2021 marked the 50th anniversary of women admitted as full-time undergraduate students, with the first woman, a transfer student, graduating in 1972.



# Office of Sponsored Programs Collaborations Earn \$2 Million in Funding



During Fiscal Year 2021, the College's Office of Sponsored Programs collaborated with myriad faculty and staff to secure more than \$2 million in grants that funded the creation of programs and services that benefit both Fisher and the surrounding Rochester area.



These programs and services include curriculum development for 24 new courses in the humanities core at the College, the academic support of underrepresented students, and the professional development and training of Fisher faculty, K-12 teachers, health care professionals, and families and caregivers for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Funding for these initiatives has come from the National Endowment for the Humanities, New York State Developmental Disabilities Planning Council, and the U.S. Department of Education TRIO Student Support Services, among others.



Academic programs, institutes, and centers that are implementing new grants include the American studies, biology, chemistry, English, history, philosophy,

religious studies, and sociology departments of the School of Arts and Sciences, Center for Sustainability, Center for Career and Academic Planning, and the Golisano Institute for Developmental and Disability Nursing.

Many of the grant initiatives were created in collaboration with community partners. Drs. Carolyn Vacca and Frank Dotolo received a second round of funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities to support the continuation of a project aimed at generating discussions of duty, patriotism, and loyalty among Rochester-based veterans. They collaborate with area nursing homes, Monroe County Jail, Western New York Heroes, and Monroe County Libraries to reach out to veterans and host these student-led dialogues.

A program designed by biology professor Dr. Mike Boller in collaboration with Genesee RiverWatch and Delta Environmental, Inc. connects teachers with tools and opportunities from local, state, and national resources.

A nearly \$80,000 grant from the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Bay Watershed Education and Training (B-WET) program funded the creation of the program, which aims to help teachers

incorporate the study of Lake Ontario, and the streams and rivers that flow into it, into their curriculum.

On campus, a \$1.3 million grant from the Federal TRIO (TRIO) Student Support Services program (SSS) funded the creation of a new student support program for first generation students at the College. TRIO programs are designed to provide services and assistance to low-income, first-generation college students and individuals with disabilities as they progress through the academic pipeline. This is the first time Fisher has received TRIO SSS funding from the U.S. Department of Education. The College was awarded \$261,888 each year for five years (\$1,309,440 total), effectively funding 100 percent of the program. Fisher's program will serve roughly 140 first-generation students each year.

## Select Grants Awarded in Fiscal Year 2021

**National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Dialogues on the Experience of War Program**  
Dialogues on Ethics, Civic Engagement, and Military Service

**National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Humanities Initiatives Program**  
Embedding Place-Based Humanities in the Curriculum

**National Endowment for the Humanities Connections Program**  
Rochester: Mapping Place, Space, and Identity

**National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration Bay Watershed Education and Training (NOAA B-Wet): Our Lakes, Streams, and Rivers**  
Online and Field-based Hybrid Teacher Training

**Health and Human Services Administration for Community Living Program: Subaward to St. John Fisher College**  
Partnering to Transform Health Outcomes with Persons with Intellectual Disabilities and Developmental Disabilities (PATH-PWIDD) Program

**New York State Developmental Disabilities Planning Council (DDPC)**  
COVID-19 Response Small Grant

**U.S. Department of Education TRIO Student Support Services (SSS)**  
Establishing a TRIO SSS Program at St. John Fisher College





## Transformations Abound: How Technology and Innovation are Shaping the Student Experience

**IN FALL 2020**, St. John Fisher College announced the iFisher: Next Generation Learning Initiative, an initiative designed to transform the teaching and learning experience at the College. One year later, in fall 2021, iFisher became a reality, and Fisher became the first college in upstate New York to implement a one-to-one iPad program for all undergraduate students.

As a core feature of the initiative, the College provides an iPad, keyboard case, and Apple Pencil to all incoming and current undergraduate students. iFisher focuses on strengthening collaboration, critical thinking, and creativity among students, faculty, and staff, as well as shaping students' 21st century digital literacy skills. The initiative is an extension of the Fisher Edge student success program, the College's commitment to providing students with learning experiences designed to help them achieve their educational goals and early career outcomes.

“The iFisher initiative reflects the alignment of our student-centered mission to the global, complex, and digital world we live in. More than simply making Apple technology accessible to students, it is a strategic, broad re-envisioning of teaching and learning at Fisher,” said Dr. Gerard J. Rooney, president of the College.

Seven faculty members, in collaboration with the College's Apple 1:1 Task Force, piloted the initiative with more than 100 students to explore how the technology could be incorporated across a variety of disciplines. They were able to take digital class notes, create videos or presentations, work collaboratively sharing and creating documents with classmates, and complete online tests, among other tasks that allowed them to demonstrate their proficiency with course content in unique and interesting ways.

The shift to remote instruction during the spring 2020 semester due to the pandemic expedited additional training for faculty through the Fisher Apple Academy, which provided faculty with training sessions focused on basic iPad navigation, specific apps, and brainstorming ways this technology can be used in their specific courses. At the time, more than 140 faculty members participated, and upon completion, earned recognition as Apple Certified Teachers. To date, 255 have completed Fisher Apple Academy 1.0, 115 have completed Fisher Apple Academy 2.0, and 202 have received their Apple Teacher certification.

iFisher has been complemented by a re-envisioning of campus learning spaces in Basil Hall, adjacent to the DePeters Family Center for Innovation and Teaching Excellence, which was established in fall 2020

provides the College with collaborative leadership for the design and delivery of innovative teaching and learning activities both on campus and to the broader community. These Innovative Learning Classrooms are highly flexible and mobile friendly; everything in the space is movable, including tables, chairs, and podiums. Faculty can teach in configurations including rows, to small groups, to a full circle – and make shifts quickly depending on the activity taking place. In addition, each room has dual screens and projection sources – both connected with

Apple TVs, so multiple class participants can present at the same time. There are also advanced cameras and microphones in the rooms adding to the audio/video quality in these spaces.

Katie Sabourin, director of the DePeters Family Center, said that the classrooms are being utilized by 29 classes in the fall 2021 semester and that the benefits include support for active learning.

“Active learning strategies keep students more engaged

in the learning process throughout class, therefore increasing their comprehension and success in the course. Instead of being passive listeners, students are actively involved with the creation of knowledge and as active members in the community of learners in which they sit. If you walk into a room that is shaped in a circle, you know you will be talking at some point. The layout, furniture, and technology in the room is designed to support this type of active learning, instead of the more traditional sit and listen approach,” she said.

Student feedback has been positive thus far; they have shared that the spaces help to keep them engaged, the technology makes it easier to collaborate, and the atmosphere is more inviting and modern – encouraging them to want to learn. Faculty have shared similar feedback; they like the overall feel of the rooms, the multiple screens, and the ability to transition class activities without losing a lot of class time reorganizing chairs and getting students back on task.

Coming soon to the DePeters Family Center space are Prototype and Professional Development Classrooms that will be used to offer faculty workshops and events related to the Center's mission.





# Mastering the Online

## Fisher Finds Early Success in Online Graduate Education



Between Fisher Pharm.D. Online, launched in fall 2020, and Fisher Nursing Online, launched in fall 2021, the College has welcomed nearly 150 fully online students to its new breadth of offerings in partnership with 2U, a global leader in education technology. Fisher Pharm.D. Online is the first online or hybrid Pharm.D. pathway offered by an institution in New York state—and one of fewer than 10 online graduate pharmacy programs in the country.

At the start of the fall 2021 semester, the second cohort of the pharmacy online

pathway joined the incoming campus pathway cohort and became part of the Wegmans School of Pharmacy's largest incoming class – 110 strong – to participate in their first immersion experience in the program on campus. Together, the students did just that - immersed themselves into the Fisher fabric from service to the White Coat Ceremony to getting a taste of the food at Fisher.

Nicolaus Anschutz was among them, and hails from San Antonio, Texas, where he attended the University of the Incarnate Word

and obtained a B.S. in biology. For him, the immersion experience was a pivotal moment in the program.

“We had seen each other virtually for two months and when we all finally met in person it was as if we weren't just meeting for the first time. We were all excited to get to know the students who would be joining us in the fall for the rest of our program and planned several events to socialize after our work each day. Everyone who I encountered on campus I have kept in touch with,” he said.

Anschutz was specifically searching for

an online pharmacy program when he found Fisher. Having just started a position as a pharmacy technician, he is finding the connection between his work and his studies to be beneficial. In addition, the relationships he has formed with his peers and faculty sound like those made in the campus pathway, a sign that the program has seamlessly transitioned to the online space.

“Friendships developed quickly. You and your peers are in the same study groups and naturally start communicating more and more. My developmental mentor and I are a great connection and I know I can reach out with any small issue for advice,” he says.

His plans after Fisher include a goal to complete a critical care residency and ultimately working with a care team in various intensive care units.

Anna Garrabrant was very familiar with Fisher's Wegmans School of Nursing after having obtained her B.S. in nursing in 2019 from the College. Now in Chicago, IL, she works part-time at the Shirley Ryan Ability Lab, the first-ever translational research hospital in the country. She heard about the online master's offering on LinkedIn, and says pursuing her graduate degree at Fisher was a “no-brainer.”

“The professors at Fisher are second to none. They go above and beyond to assist you in any way possible, and keep the Fisher values of goodness, discipline, and knowledge at the center of everything they do,” she said. “As a Fisher graduate, I knew the quality of the education and how prepared I was to enter the nursing field. I felt extremely confident that Fisher would once again send me out into the community with the skills and knowledge to properly serve others.”

She was also familiar with the rigor of the program, which she says has been maintained in the online graduate program.

“It is very rigorous and a great deal of work. However, I love learning and it feels great to be back. We have had so much support from the College and our advisors throughout this whole process, which has made everything run that much smoother,” she said.

Sarah Muderiera, an online nursing student from Buchanan in Westchester County, completed her undergraduate degree at Western Governor's University. She found Fisher after doing her own research online and among her peers, as she was looking for top nurse practitioner programs that were offered both online and in-person.

“Fisher provides an excellent and reputable in-person program so I expected their online program to live up to the same standards,” she said.

So far, her expectations have been met.

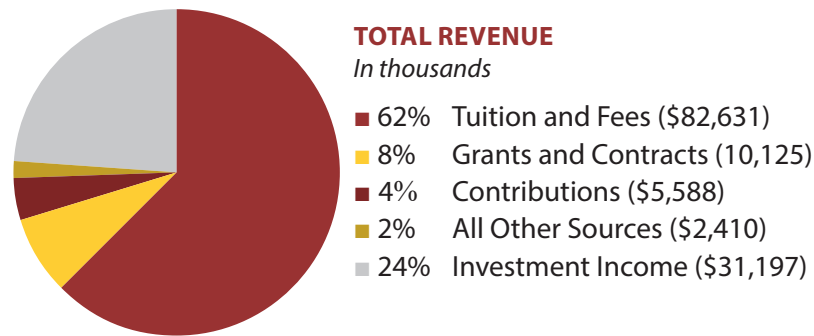
“The content and instructors have provided me with a wealth of knowledge that are already enhancing my nursing career both clinically and operationally. The administrators, instructors, IT staff, student success advisors, and classmates have all been extremely helpful and I can use any of these resources at any time of need,” she said. “I've been able to develop relationships with both my faculty and peers. The class sessions are always interactive and the faculty provide extensive support when I'm in need of any clarification on course content. I have an ongoing relationship with my peers and I'm positive that these relationships will continue past this program.”

Since the launch of these programs, other graduate programs at Fisher have also transitioned to a fully online offering, including M.S. in Sport Management, M.S. in Literacy Education, and Master of Public Health. The College has offered its RN to BSN Online and the Online M.S. in Library Media programs for many years.

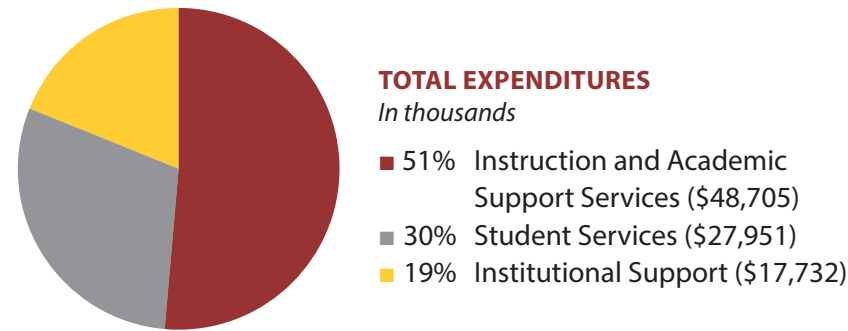


# Financials

St. John Fisher College experienced another year of strong financial performance with an increase in net revenue of 29.6% compared to 2019-2020, supported by an increase in grant activities and investment income. *Financials represent the 2021 fiscal year, June 1, 2020-May 31, 2021.*



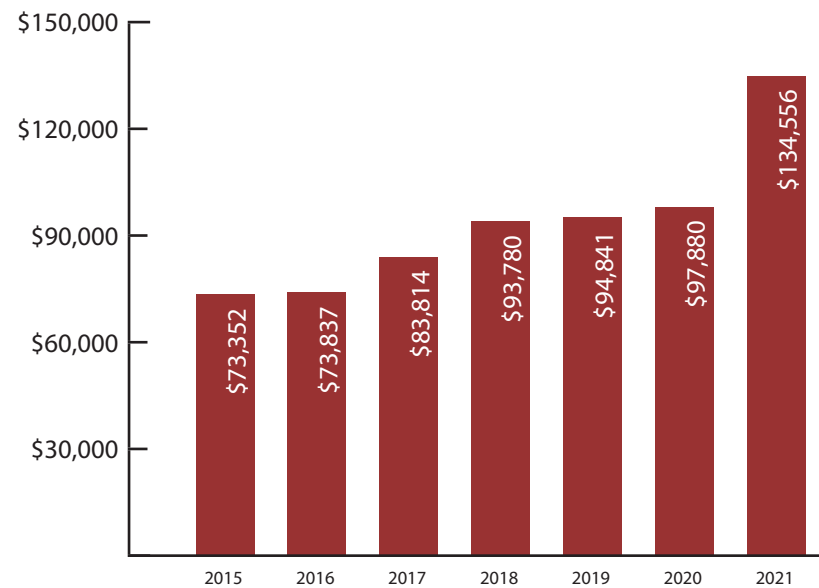
Tuition, fees, room, and board, net of financial aid, accounted for approximately 62% of the total revenue of the College. Investment income was approximately 24% of revenues. Grant and contribution revenues contributed 8% and 4%, respectively, with the remaining 2% provided by other sources.



Expenses related to instruction and academic support represent 51% of the total expenses of the College. Student services and institutional support represent, respectively, 30% and 19% of the total expenses of the College.

**ENDOWMENT MARKET VALUE**  
*In thousands*

The market value of St. John Fisher College's endowment, including reinvested earnings, has increased steadily since 2015. In 2021, the College endowment grew to \$134.6 million – an 83.4% increase over the last seven years.



# Leadership

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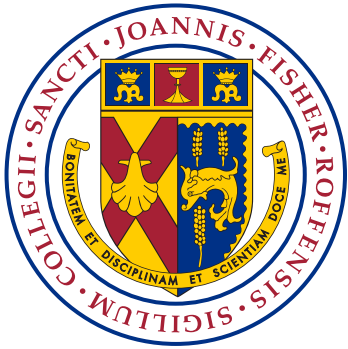
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*Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students*

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- Ann Marie Fallon, Ph.D.  
*Dean, School of Arts and Sciences*
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*Senior Diversity Officer*
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*Visiting Associate Professor and Interim Dean, School of Business*





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