

SAVE THE DATE

FAIRMONT STATE UNIVERSITY
Homecoming
OCTOBER 6-12, 2025



FAIRMONT STATE ALUMNI

1300 Locust Avenue, Fairmont, WV 26554
WWW.FAIRMONTSTATE.EDU/alumni

To receive the most up-to-date alumni news and updates,
please keep your information updated at

WWW.FSUFOUNDATION.ORG/UPDATE-CONTACT-INFO

Fairmont State and the Alumni Association are thrilled to welcome back alumni, families, faculty and friends to campus for a week of unforgettable memories.

Congratulations to the 2025 alumni award recipients:

Mary Jo Thomas	Lifetime Achievement
Barbara Bennett	Outstanding Alumna
Julie Sole	Outstanding Alumna
Robert Brookover	Outstanding Alumnus
Steve Cain	Outstanding Alumnus
Dwight & Tina Moore	Outstanding Alumni
Belinda Biafore	Alumna of Achievement
Gia Deasy	Alumna of Achievement
Jonathan Board	Alumnus of Achievement
Warren Doles	Alumnus of Achievement
Mason (Andy) Neptune	Alumnus of Achievement
LD Skarzinski	Alumnus of Achievement
Cassady Rodriguez	Outstanding Young Alumna
Erika Utt-Ushendibaba	Outstanding Young Alumna
Isaac Lambert	Outstanding Young Alumnus
Jared Rogers	Outstanding Young Alumnus

MAROON & WHITE

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER



FAIRMONT STATE ALUMNI



CONGRATULATIONS, FAIRMONT STATE GRADUATES!

Spring Commencement was held on May 17, 2025, and over 300 graduates took part in the ceremonies. Alumni Relations and the Alumni Association wishes all graduates the best of luck and encourages them to keep their information updated to receive alumni and University news and updates.

Special congratulations to the Winter 2024 graduates. We hope you are enjoying success and prosperity. We encourage all alumni to stay connected and update the Alumni Association with any name or residency changes so we may continue to learn how you SOAR.

Updates can be made by visiting:

WWW.FAIRMONTSTATE.EDU/ALUMNI



Nick Fantasia & his wife, Beth

President, Fairmont State
Alumni Association

A NOTE FROM YOUR ALUMNI PRESIDENT

I was honored to be a part of the Spring Commencement celebration this past month. That title "Spring Commencement" feels fitting to me.

As I watched these young adults cross the stage they reminded me of Spring. Like a spring bloom they were fresh and vibrant, full of life, and ready to set out and make their way. As I watched their loved ones join in the celebration. It was obvious the reflection associated with the word "Commencement" wasn't lost upon them. You could see in so many parents' eyes the reflection of accomplishment, overcoming adversity, and recognition of those not there that had a hand in the journey.

As the weather warms, we will have many leisurely moments before us. Take a minute to think about the Falcons that are today moving about this campus. Think about what you overcame to get from where they are, to where you are today. The role our College on the Hill played in your success. Those Falcons on campus today would probably welcome some career advice. Susan Rodriguez will show you how to impart that wisdom in Career Services. You may want to give a helping hand to a struggling student from one Falcon to another Falcon. Amie Fazalare will show you the value of participating in Legacy Falcon activities. If your life's path has rewarded you to the level you may help the next generation, Anne Bolyard at the Foundation will explain how today's dollars change tomorrow's lives.

For me, Commencement always makes me think about what is next to come. Have a great summer Falcon Nation.

FAIRMONT STATE ALUMNI CHAPTERS

We're excited to share that work is underway to create new alumni chapters for Fairmont State graduates! These chapters will help connect Falcons across the country and strengthen their bonds with the University.

In the near future, we'll be visiting the Maryland/Virginia area, Charlotte (NC), Charleston (SC), and Winston-Salem (NC) to meet with alumni and gauge interest in forming local chapter teams.

Interested in getting involved or starting a chapter in your area? Contact Tina Shaw at tshaw@fairmontstate.edu — we'd love to hear from you!

Work has already begun on the North Central West Virginia Young Alumni Chapter, NextGen, that will be finalizing a fall event in the coming months!



WELCOME NEW ALUMNI BOARD MEMBERS

The Fairmont State Alumni Board of Directors is thrilled to welcome the following alumni to the Alumni Association Board: Adrianna Constable, Vicki Huffman, Kelle Kelley, Reghan Molloyhan, JoAnn Nuzum, Ally Quigley, and Kat Stevens. Their dedication, passion, and connection to Fairmont State make them invaluable additions to this dynamic group. As board members, they will play a vital role in shaping alumni engagement, fostering lifelong connections, and supporting the university's mission.

Amy Snively, Director of Alumni Relations said, "we look forward to the insights and energy each of them bring as we work together to strengthen the Fairmont State community for generations to come."

MOUNTAIN EAST CONFERENCE BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

In the 2025 season, Fairmont State University's men's and women's basketball teams both won the Mountain East Conference (MEC) Tournament championship in March! This was the first time in the history of the MEC that Fairmont State won both the men's and women's basketball titles in the same season. A reception was held during the tournament for alumni and friends in support of the teams. Several area graduates joined local fans who traveled to support the teams.



INTRODUCING THE FALCON FLYER: COMMUNITY EDITION!

Fairmont State is excited to launch the Falcon Flyer: Community Edition—a new bi-weekly newsletter created for Fairmont State’s neighbors, partners, and friends across the region. This newsletter allows the community an inside look at what’s happening on campus and how to be a part of it. The Falcon Flyer: Community Edition is the go-to source for staying connected with Fairmont State. Signing up is quick, easy, and completely free—and we’ll only use your email to send the Falcon Flyer: Community Edition. You can unsubscribe at any time.

Stay informed. Stay connected. Soar with the Falcons!

Sign-up here: www.fairmontstate.edu/contact/newsletter.aspx

FALCONS BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Your Next Great Listen Starts Here! Discover the voices of Fairmont State alumni and community leaders through our inspiring podcast series. Twice a month, we bring you compelling stories, expert insights, and meaningful conversations with thought leaders, industry pros, creatives, and changemakers from around the world. Stay tuned—our Fall schedule is coming soon!

Thank you to our guests this past semester including Jonathan Board, Executive Director, WV First Foundation; Jeff Fansler, Director of Transportation, City of Winston-Salem, NC; Lauren O’Brien, Project Designer, McMillan Pazdan Smith Architecture; Maura Cahill, Owner, Penn Oaks Winery; Seth Davis, Principal, Baker Tilley US, Rick Rock, Director, NCWW Airport; and Deborah Bennett, CEO, ORCA Golf.

All podcasts can be found on Spotify and at:

www.fairmontstate.edu/student-services/career-development/professional-spotlight-series.aspx

2025 ALL-MAJOR SPRING CAREER

This annual event brought together approximately 180 employers and hundreds of students eager to explore internship and job opportunities. From tech startups to Fortune 500 companies, the event offered a wide range of industries and roles, reflecting the diverse interests and aspirations of our student body. Many students used the event to make valuable connections, practice their networking skills, and learn more about career paths they might pursue. Employers praised the professionalism and preparedness of our attendees, with several organizations noting strong candidates for summer internships and full-time roles. Thank you to all the sponsors, students, staff, and employer partners who made the All-Major Spring Career Fair a success!

Look for more information on the upcoming STEAM Fall Career Fair scheduled for November 6, 2025. If you are interested in participating as an employer, please visit: www.fairmontstate.edu/student-services/career-development/career-fair.aspx

FAIRMONT STATE DAY OF GIVING

On February 27, 2025, the Fairmont State community came together for the annual Day of Giving—and what an incredible day it was! In a 24-hour marathon, alumni, students, faculty, staff, families, and friends showed up with extraordinary generosity and spirit to support the programs, scholarships, and initiatives that make Fairmont State so special. Thanks to 1686 donors, \$715,501 was raised. Every gift, no matter the size, plays a vital role in fueling the mission and helping and shaping the future for current and future generations of Fairmont State University. Support for this annual day doesn’t just fund education—it transforms lives!



A NOTE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Dear Falcon Alumni,

Two years ago, I arrived at Fairmont State University with the belief that greatness was within our grasp, and every day since then, I have seen us rise to every challenge. We have introduced new academic programs, enhanced our campus infrastructure, expanded outreach, and built stronger community connections. Our students have excelled in athletics, on stage, and academically. The future of Fairmont State University has never been brighter.

And people are taking notice! The state of West Virginia is supporting Fairmont State with grants for aviation, education, and so much more. The federal government has committed resources to our new nursing lab, increased capacity for aviation, and efforts to strengthen the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) pipeline in West Virginia. On top of that, our alumni and supporters came together during Day of Giving to shatter previous records, surpassing our goal of \$700,000. The above is just a small sampling of the ways people are reaching out to engage with us.

These investments are crucial not only for achieving our goals but also as evidence that Fairmont State is a university on the rise—and the world is taking notice. When I first spoke with people about the university, many referred to Fairmont State as the “best kept secret.” Well, I can proudly say that the secret is out!

I am thrilled to be part of this journey alongside a dedicated cast of Falcons, all committed to making Fairmont State the best it can be. Together, we are shaping the future, and I am confident that we will reach great heights.

Go Falcons!



Michael K. Davis, Ph.D.
President, Fairmont State University

FOREVER FALCONS

The Fairmont State Alumni Association remembers ALL Falcons who have passed away in the past year. They may have passed from this life, but will always be in our Falcon hearts. We apologize if we have missed anyone. If you know of someone who has passed in the last year, please let us know so we can honor them in the next edition.

First	Last	Maiden	Class	First	Last	Maiden	Class	First	Last	Maiden	Class
Rodney	Anselene		1986	James	Burnell		1969	Richard	Tighe		1985
Vonda	Allman		1982	Bernadette	Harker	Bell	1959	John	Warner		1966
Bethany	Hess		2000	Noel	Harvard		1981	Ronald	Welty		1958
Rebecca	Blackstone	Young	1973	Burl	Hatfield		1962	Mark	Williamson		1989
Jerry	Boчек			Frederick	Hikel		1959	Jerry	Wolfe		1972
Dorothy	White		2001	Lois	Holbert	Graves		Martin	Johnson		1962
Susan	Brown	Decker	1984	Phoebe	Hough	Schroeder	1954	Frank	Merasco		1968
Charles	Capet		1969	Alicia	Hundley		1992	Richard	Reed		1968
Shirley	Chambers		1978	Donna	Kimbrew	Van Gilder	1971	Linda	Glover		1969
Tensil	Clayton	Tennant	1965	John	Thompson			JoAnn	Saban		1969
Howard	Conaway		1963	James	Lear		1974	Robert	Kunick		1969
Dave	Cooper		1971	Konrad	Melkus			Brenda	Jenkins		1972
Marcia	Davis	Snider	1962	Robin	Miller		1998	Jerry	LeDonne		1975
Tamberly	Dennison		1994	Angela	Murphy	Cable	2005	Lee	Brown		1977
Gene	Dodd		1974	Joseph	Naunchik		1962	Charles	Gwinn		1968
Donald	Dodrill		1955	James	Neel		1998	Nicholas	Fonte		1973
Hartsell	Dodrill		1953	Randal	O'Field		1992	David	Griffith		1972
Charles	Duckworth		1978	James	Polino		1959	Phyllis	Hamilton	Wilmoth	1960
Theodore	Echols, Jr.		1975	James	Purnell		1985	Theodore	McCall		1971
Louis	Endler		1986	John	Shoaf		1959	Gary	Shaffer		1973
Patricia	Fleming	Sellers	1963	Joseph	Smith		1965	Patrick	Vavrock		1997
Tommy	Fogg		1980	Patricia	Steele		1993	Charles	Phillips		2000