



# The Future Begins Now

N E W S L E T T E R / S P R I N G / 2 0 2 2

## Greetings from the Kean University Foundation!

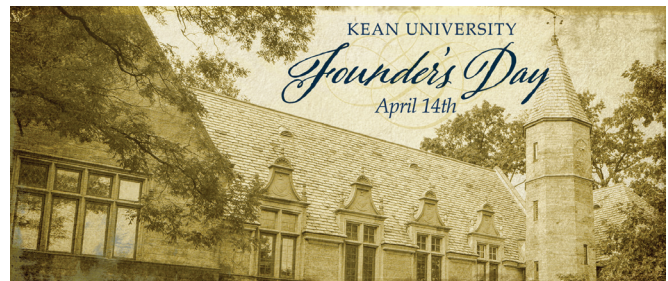
*We are excited to share with you the latest edition of our eNewsletter. In keeping with previous publications, this eNewsletter is sent out quarterly to friends and members of the Kean Community, alike, including content related to the many ways we can all support Kean University, as well as options available for making a gift to the Foundation. We look forward to keeping you updated on the Foundation's activities and the tremendous impact of its valued supporters!*

### Thank You for Supporting Founders Day!

Thank you to all the Cougars and friends who supported Kean University's annual day of giving. On April 14th, we celebrated Founders Day, which marks the first day classes were held at Kean's predecessor, the Newark Normal School, in 1855. The Kean community came together to make a monumental difference, raising critical funding so that students and faculty can continue to Climb Higher in pursuit of excellence and impact for the public good.

We are incredibly grateful for the generosity our Kean community showed on Founders Day. Nearly 400 students, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends of the University supported our campaign – nearly twice the number from 2021. In total, the Kean University Foundation raised more than \$64,000. That is more than two and a half times what was raised in 2021!

A special thank you to the generous donors who provided matching funds that spurred new donations and elevated Kean's Giving Day to new heights.





## The Patricia Galeski Gallery

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Through the tremendous generosity of Kean University Medallion Society member, Patricia Galeski, the newly named Patricia Galeski Gallery, located on the first floor of Kean University's Green Lane Academic Building (Union Campus), will soon be opening its doors to our students, faculty, staff, and all members of the Kean community.

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Upon graduating high school, Patricia received an acceptance letter to Kean, then Newark State Teachers College which had just relocated from Newark to Union, as well as a full scholarship, however, financial hardships experienced by her family prevented her from attending. Ever determined to pursue her dream of higher education, it was not until Patricia was in her fifties that she received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration from the University of Maryland, having achieved a 3.5 GPA and subsequently graduating with honors.

In recent years, while reflecting on the legacy she would leave behind, Patricia wanted to afford the same opportunity she was given to other young women. This realization resulted in Patricia's decision to offer Kean University philanthropic support in two different ways: by making a bequest, or a written provision in her will allowing for a gift from her estate to the Kean University Foundation shortly after her passing, to establish an endowed scholarship, thusly earning her membership within the Foundation's Medallion Society, as well as the generous donation which provided for the naming of The Patricia Galeski Gallery.

We are truly honored to have this legacy space bestowed by Patricia Galeski. The Patricia Galeski Gallery will support Kean University students in the Michael Graves College for Public Architecture and Design and highlight their extraordinary talents for many years to come.

## Meet the Newest Members of The Kean University Foundation Board of Directors

Traditionally, winter in New Jersey is not known as a period of growth; the local area is in a state of rest while the cold weather runs its course and the frozen ground awaits the springtime thaw. The Kean University Foundation, however, does not abide by the same rules; we do not adopt a state of restfulness and passively await growth. On the contrary, we have remained steadfast in pursuit of both our mission and our determination to assist Kean University students, faculty and staff.

Part of that growth includes the continued expansion of the Kean University Foundation's Board of Directors, a distinguished group of professionals who generously offer their time and expertise in support of the University. As such, we are pleased to introduce the Board's two newest members: Mark S. Hiltwein, CPA '87 and Charles E. Waimon '77, both of whom bring a wealth of knowledge and experience to the Foundation.



**Mark S. Hiltwein, CPA '87**

Mr. Hiltwein is a Kean alumnus who is Chief Financial Officer at Cenveo Worldwide Limited, a worldwide leader in custom labels and envelopes, warehousing, fulfillment, direct mail, and related services. With a career spanning more than 30 years, he is a seasoned financial and operational executive who has held a number of esteemed roles in the print manufacturing and distribution industry, as well as a decisive leader. Hiltwein draws upon extensive business acumen and a broad range of experience, including sales leadership and building high-performing teams.

As a former accounting major who knows first-hand the value of earning a Kean degree, Hiltwein is eager to get involved. "Attending Kean University was a valuable period of time in my life, and my first step towards pursuing a career in the world of finance," said Hiltwein. "It is with great pleasure that I have accepted the invitation to join the Kean University Foundation's Board of Directors and I am fortunate for the opportunity to help current and future Kean students achieve their educational goals."



**Chuck Waimon '77**

Mr. Waimon, or Chuck, as he prefers, is Chief Executive Officer of Mutti U.S.A., Inc., an international manufacturer and importer of shelf-stable tomato products direct from Italy. Prior to joining Mutti U.S.A., he was part of the PepsiCo/Frito Lay corporation where he was Senior Director of Sales in the Northeast Region of the United States before advancing to the role of Vice President and General Manager. In addition to being responsible for \$1.8 billion in direct sales revenue and successfully overseeing a national customer sales team, Waimon managed joint merchandising plans for Frito, Pepsi beverages and an array of PepsiCo's brands, including Doritos and Lays.

Waimon also credits the degree he earned from Kean University as his first stepping-stone into the world of business management, an experience which has fostered his desire to give back. "I am proud and honored to join the Kean University Foundation's Board of Directors," said Waimon. "I look forward to supporting the Foundation's efforts and making a difference in the lives of Kean University students."

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For more information about the Kean University Foundation Board of Directors, please visit: <https://www.keanfoundation.org/foundation/board>

# Kean University And The New York Jets – Partners In Education

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In August 2021, Kean University teamed up with the New York Jets to create both academic and career opportunities for Kean students, becoming an Official Partner of the NFL team. Most recently, the first group of Kean students participating in this program had the opportunity to present to Kean University President, Lamont O. Repollet, Ed.D., and a team of NY Jets executives at MetLife Stadium.

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Kean University is an official education partner of the New York Jets. In April, President Repollet had the opportunity to travel to MetLife Stadium with Karen Smith, Vice President of University Relations at Kean University, and Bill Miller, CEO of the Kean University Foundation, to watch Kean students participating in the inaugural Jets course present their final proposals to team executives. These marketing, management, graphic design, and communication students spent the semester working on projects to help the team build fandom among a younger demographic. Everyone was blown away by the students' research, creative ideas and presentation skills.

We want to thank Denise Anderson of Michael Graves College, Dr. Shweta Singh of the College of Business and Public Management and Suzanne Schwab of the College of Liberal Arts for co-teaching this first Jets class and preparing Kean students so well for this “real world” educational experience.





Pay it  
forward

## The Pay It Forward Fund

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**The Pay It Forward Fund, established by Kean alumni in an effort to assist current Kean students maintain their academic standing and earn their desired degrees, has had a lasting impact on its recipients and their ability to pursue their goals of higher education.**

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Perhaps you remember the most recent edition of the Kean digital newspaper, The Tower. On the front page was the story about a Kean student that struck an all-too-familiar chord. When the student started her college education at Kean University, she did not anticipate that she would not graduate. However, four years and 122 credits into her studies, and only six credits shy of earning a bachelor's degree in English with a minor in public administration, she was forced to drop out. The story quoted her as follows:

"I was out of school for five years. I dropped out due to financial reasons. My parents could no longer afford to pay my tuition."

Many students have had to endure unexpected challenges in their quest to earn a college degree. While some are able to overcome the obstacles that land in their path, others resign themselves to their fate and never earn a degree in their intended major. Incomes, family background and other events beyond their control have somehow played a role in preventing certain students from realizing their educational goals.

That is where the Pay it Forward Fund at the Kean University Foundation comes in. The Fund was created by generous alumni and has three simple goals:

- sharing the Kean experience;
- bringing together key stakeholders to support non-traditional students who are financially struggling; and
- extending to others the same support that was received when the alumni were students.

The Pay it Forward Fund epitomizes the spirit of giving back while assisting Kean students in reaching greater heights through education. In short, the Pay It Forward Fund works to close attainment gaps for traditionally underrepresented populations. In return, students who benefit from the Pay It Forward Fund are asked to simply do just that—pay it forward when they can.

Since the Fund's inception, the Kean University Foundation has provided more than \$34,100 in scholarships to 11 students. Giving students the unfettered opportunity to excel is just one more way that the Kean University Foundation supports the next generation and build tomorrow's leaders today.

## Kean University Foundation Wins Ragan Communications' Employee Communications Award

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The Kean University Foundation is proud to share this wonderful news and exciting recognition with the Kean community!

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In September 2021, the Kean University Foundation submitted its Fiscal Year 2020 Annual Report for consideration in Ragan Communications' Employee Communications Awards – Publications Category. We are pleased to announce that the Foundation has been named a winner!

Every annual report produced by the Team at the Foundation is truly a group effort, and the content contained within each publication reflects our desire to keep our alumni, donors and friends abreast of

ongoings throughout the fiscal year, as well as spotlight the grand impact of their generosity. Our goal, as always, remains the same: the pursuit of fulfilling our mission in support of Kean students, faculty and staff, and public recognition of this nature, beyond the scope of Kean's widespread community, serves to amplify the efforts of those who selflessly contribute.

Previously, the Foundation also received an Honorable Mention for our FY20 Annual Report in the Fundraising and Donor Relations Campaign category in PR Daily's Nonprofit Communications Awards.

If you are interested in perusing Ragan's numerous award categories and their respective winners, please click this [link to the winner page](#).



## The Rise of Industry-Academic Partnerships

With the Kean University Foundation fully immersed in the vision of Kean University's 18th President, Lamont O. Repollet, Ed.D., we are broadening our philanthropic horizons to provide career-oriented opportunities for our students by establishing collaborative, mutually beneficial partnerships with businesses and corporations across the industry. While these partnerships take time to develop from initial brainstorming to detailed implementation, the return on the investment, or "ROI", can be substantial for our students, the University and the regional economy.



It all begins with building relationships. Ed Ahart, Director of Corporate and Foundation Relations at the Kean University Foundation, is in discussions with individuals and teams at companies in various industries, from finance to cybersecurity, to explore ways in which students at Kean can immerse themselves in their chosen fields. Opportunities such as paid internships, job placement, company-sponsored certification programs, and guest lectures given by leadership of the respective corporations can be attractive to regional businesses who recognize the opportunity to navigate their employee pipeline while engaging with the community.

Following a tumultuous time during which our nation and student body faced numerous societal and socioeconomic challenges, we are redoubling our efforts to create meaningful partnerships that offer our students the opportunity to be placed in the work field, readily trained and knowledgeable of industry culture, while setting the stage for professional success.

# DID YOU KNOW



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1920s represented an era of change and growth in the United States.

The decade was one of both learning and exploration and helped to establish America's position in respect to the rest of the world, through its industry, inventions and creativity. Many Americans owned radios and telephones for the first time, as well as cars, which brought the need for better roadways. One particularly historic event was the passing of the Eighteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, ushering in the era of prohibition which expressly forbade the manufacture, sale and/or transportation of alcoholic beverages.

American culture, such as books, movies, and Broadway theater, was now being exported to the rest of the world. Also known as the Jazz Age, or "Roaring Twenties!", the decade featured economic prosperity and carefree living for many before ending with a crash in 1929. In 1925, flappers found a new dance craze called the Charleston, and in 1927, The Jazz Singer became the first successful "talking" picture. In 1928, Mickey Mouse made his first appearance in the cartoon Steamboat Willie, and in 1929 Popeye first appeared in the comic strip Thimble Theater.

During this period, which spanned 1920 through 1929, Charles Lindbergh flew solo from New York to Paris, Amelia Earhart became the first woman to fly across the Atlantic Ocean, and **a total of 54 students graduated from New Jersey State Normal School at Newark before the institution was renamed as Kean University in 1997.**

## Extra! Extra! Kean University in the News!



Institute for Life Science  
Entrepreneurship Wins  
International Awards  
for Business  
Acceleration Efforts

[CLICK HERE](#)

Kean Ocean  
Student Finds  
Dream Career on  
Barnegat Bay

[CLICK HERE](#)

Kean Designated as  
Doctoral University  
by Carnegie  
Commission

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Kean Designated  
Cybersecurity  
Center of  
Excellence

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***“Someone’s  
sitting in the  
shade today  
because  
someone  
planted a  
tree a long  
time ago.”***

— Warren Buffet

You have worked hard and saved for retirement – and your hard work has paid off! Now, use your savings to create your legacy by making an IRA QCD (Qualified Charitable Distribution) gift to the Kean University Foundation.



Avoid taxes on QCD transfers of up to \$100,000 from your IRA to support Kean.



Satisfy some or all of your required minimum distribution for the year.



Reduce your taxable income, even if you do not itemize deductions.



Make a gift that is not subject to the deduction limits on charitable gifts.



Use your rollover to make payments on an existing pledge to us.

For more information, please contact Mark Urban, Interim Chief Development Officer, at [murban@keanfoundation.org](mailto:murban@keanfoundation.org) or by phone at (908) 316-8927 to learn more.