



**PennState**  
Abington

# PHILANTHROPY

## IMPACT REPORT

FEBRUARY 2024



**PennState**  
Abington



# FROM THE CHANCELLOR



Philanthropy inspires and motivates me. I am amazed at the new scholarships, programs, and experiences made possible by our loyal alumni, parents, corporate partners, and friends. Your gifts enrich the student experience, provide transformative experiences, and help us fulfill our land-grant mission. The education of Penn State Abington students is made even stronger by your support.

I am pleased to share this Philanthropy Impact Report, highlighting a few of the experiences that our dedicated donors made possible. This report only begins to demonstrate the extent of your impact—both now and well into the future.

There is so much to be proud of here at Penn State Abington. I hope you are inspired by what we have accomplished together. On behalf of the entire Penn State Abington community, I express our deepest gratitude to you for creating a brighter future for Abington students and faculty.

Best,

**Andrew August, Ph.D.**  
Interim Chancellor



# PROVIDING PATHWAYS TO SUCCESS FOR FIRST-GENERATION COLLEGE STUDENTS

FIRST GENERATION COLLEGE STUDENTS AT ABINGTON

1,366 > 44%

When Tina Hennessey was applying to Penn State, she and her dad, a postal worker, spent hours contemplating the big questions and the small ones, too: How do we pay for college, but just as important, how do you choose your courses, find work on campus, and hold the whole thing together? Tina was a first-generation college student, and she and her family were navigating an entirely new world.

“When I reflect on it, my college experience was different from many other students because my family didn’t know how to maneuver through these processes. Our lack of understanding really impacted the decisions we were making,” said Tina, the senior assistant vice president for principal gifts in the Penn State Office of University Development.

As they were unpacking their shared experiences as first-generation students, Tina and her husband realized the best fit for them to support Penn State Abington was to establish the Hennessey Family Fund, which underwrites programming that can keep this cohort of students on the path to earning their degrees.

“In my current role at Penn State, I think about the lack of social capital to support first generation students, and we know we need to support first generation students with intentionality.

Specific programming is so important to help them acclimate, prepare them to be successful, and create the community they need,” she said.

Aneesah Smith, the director of the Student Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (SODEI), keeps Tina apprised of SODEI’s work with first generation students, which includes establishing a successful faculty/staff mentoring program.



Penn State Abington first-generation students connect with mentors and other resources through the I’m First organization. I’m First is supported by the campus’ Student Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.



“Through the Hennessey Family Fund, we are connecting first generation students to each other and resources and helping them have the full and transformative college experience. This is a way for me to have a broad impact, and I love what I see happening.”  
– Tina Hennessey



Tina Hennessey (left center) and SODEI Director Aneesah Smith (right center) participate in a roundtable discussion at Abington’s annual Gratitude Gathering.

# PENN STATE ABINGTON STUDENT FINANCIAL AID PROFILE

## UNDERGRADUATE ENROLLMENT

(2023-24)

3,088



ALL STUDENT  
AID RECIPIENTS  
2,615

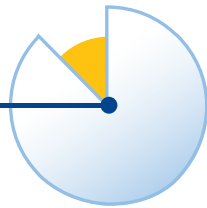


PERCENT OF  
ENROLLED STUDENTS  
WITH AID

79%

AID RECIPIENTS  
WITH UNMET NEED\*

1,861



*\*Unmet need is the difference between the total cost of a student's education for one year and the amount of the expected family contribution combined with all sources of student aid funding received (including student and parent loans). Most recent data available is from 2021-22.*

# DONOR-FUNDED ENDOWED & ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIPS

NUMBER OF ABINGTON STUDENTS  
WITH SCHOLARSHIPS

414

AVERAGE  
SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

\$2,259

PERCENT OF ABINGTON STUDENTS  
WITH SCHOLARSHIPS

13%

NUMBER OF DONOR-FUNDED  
ENDOWED AND ANNUAL  
SCHOLARSHIPS

74

TOTAL ABINGTON SCHOLARSHIP  
DOLLARS AWARDED\*\*

\$1,123,627

*\*\*Funds from Abington's annual and endowed scholarships awarded to Abington students.*

## PENN STATE ABINGTON'S DEVELOPMENT & ALUMNI RELATIONS OFFICE

To learn more about how you can create your own scholarship or program fund to support Abington students, contact the Development & Alumni Relations office or scan the QR code.



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# SUPPORTING HIGH PROMISE, HIGH-ACHIEVING ABINGTON BUSINESS STUDENTS

When Steve Taub, Class of 1973, reflected on his extensive and successful career in international business a few years ago, his thoughts turned local, back to his formative time at Penn State Abington, not far from his childhood home. He realized that 50 years later, Abington still equals opportunity for business students.

“Abington offers unique options, and you receive more individual attention here and a broad range of opportunities and experiences. It provides flexibility to students with all the benefits of a world-class university,” he said.

In 2020, Taub elected to build on his legacy of commitment to Abington by establishing the Germer-Taub Business Leadership Fund, named after his beloved grandmother and aunt whose resilience and determination inspired him. The fund provides qualified juniors and seniors with up to \$10,000 in scholarships and an additional \$2,500 for their internships. It also supports study abroad and business case competitions to prepare students for successful careers in the global economy.

“Abington has the perfect environment for business students with the perfect level of attention to their education. The idea behind the Germer-Taub Business Leadership Fund is to give them access to new opportunities that will expand their careers,” he said.

For Thomas Stone, business program chair at Abington, the Germer-Taub Business Leadership Fund allows faculty to reward high-achieving, high-promise students with demonstrated financial need. It also elevates the awareness of Abington’s premier business programs to well-known employers who then recruit our students.

“Students are being offered internships at prestigious companies such as Comcast and top accounting firms thanks to the Germer-Taub scholarship. Some of these students are now able to complete multiple internships, which makes them even more marketable,” he said.

Junior Alyssa Feliciano, a finance major with a minor in management information systems, is one of more than a dozen current Germer-Taub recipients. She interned at global telecommunications giant Lumen Technologies this year.



● Pictured above with Germer-Taub scholarship recipients are Steve Taub '73, Lynn Burke (center), and Dr. Thomas Stone (far right) during Abington’s annual Scholarship Donor Meet & Greet.

“I’m grateful for the Germer-Taub scholarship because I was able to take 21 credits this semester, and I didn’t have to work so I could focus on my classes,” she said.

Dr. Stone, who recruited Penn State students during his two decade career in finance at Siemens, is deeply grateful for the support of donors such as Steve and others for Abington business programs.

“Making sure students get the opportunities they deserve is the best part of my job, and it is all made possible by Germer-Taub funds and other philanthropic support,” he said.

Steve hopes that more donors will join him in supporting Penn State Abington and the students with whom he feels a close connection.



“It is a testament to the maturity, determination, and motivation of these students. They understand that this opportunity at Abington is helping to create their future. Abington does not hold people back, which is why Abington has always been dear to my heart.”

– Steve Taub



Donors like Steve Taub advance the University’s historic land-grant mission to serve and lead. Through philanthropy, alumni and friends are helping students to join the Penn State family and prepare for lifelong success; driving research, outreach and economic development that grow our shared strength and readiness for the future; and increasing the University’s impact for families, patients, and communities across the Commonwealth and around the world. Learn more by visiting [raise.psu.edu](https://raise.psu.edu).

● Penn State Abington alumnus Steve Taub established the Germer-Taub Business Scholarship in 2020. The scholarship is named after his beloved grandmother and aunt.

# ABINGTON'S IMPACT MOTIVATES ALUMNI BROTHERS TO ESTABLISH ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP

Brothers John '69 and Ross '75 Frantz attended Penn State Abington a few years apart, but when they sat down together to reflect on the impact of their college years, they shared similar thoughts on the lifelong impact of their time on campus.

"Coming here really shaped our young lives, and because of our education we were able to get good jobs and have the wherewithal to do something productive," John said.

"My education really helped me step out of my comfort zone," Ross said, recalling a study abroad experience in Germany.

Small classes, expert faculty, campus athletics, and the opportunity to develop long-running friendships helped steer them into careers and personal relationships that they treasure to this day. Those experiences led the men and their wives, Marty and Susan, to support Abington students who need financial assistance to stay on the path to complete their degrees.

"We wanted to give back to something that was important in our lives, and we want to help students. Our Penn State experience is with us to this day," Ross said.

The two couples created the Frantz Family Scholarship, a non-endowed, annually funded scholarship. Annually funded scholarships come with a minimum gift commitment of \$12,500 paid over five years, which offers a lower entry point for a scholarship than endowed funds.

These annual scholarships allow gifts to go directly and immediately to students, with the ability to set criteria, such as prioritizing students studying a particular major, or who live in a specific geographic area, for how the scholarship is awarded. The 2023-24 Frantz Family Scholarship was awarded to Taylor LaPage, a senior student athlete.

"I'm so grateful for the support I received from the Frantzes. Because of the scholarship, I can focus on my courses my last year and not worry so much about how to pay the bills," she said.



Ross wants students to know that they have alumni supporting them as they work to earn their degrees. "There are going to be times when you have tough courses or a tough professor or money is a problem, and we want to help students persevere," he said. "We helped our own children with college, and we know what a tremendous benefit it was for them. But it's not the case for many students, so we want to help others along way," he said.



**"I'm so grateful for the support I received from the Frantzes. Because of the scholarship, I can focus on my courses my last year and not worry so much about how to pay the bills."**  
 – Taylor LaPage, 2023-24 recipient of the Frantz Family Scholarship



*John and Marty Frantz and Ross and Susan Frantz established an annually funded scholarship at Penn State Abington. They had an opportunity to meet with the first Frantz Family Scholarship student recipient, senior student-athlete Taylor LaPage (center).*



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