

BEAVER COLLEGE FOUNDATION FORMED

UNIVERSITY APPOINTS FOUNDATION'S FIRST TRUSTEES



Brigette A. Bryant, Vice President for Development and Alumni Engagement, explains the genesis and mission of the Beaver College Foundation at a presentation during Alumni Reunion Weekend on Saturday, April 29, 2023.

Following two years of institutional planning, legal guidance, committee support, trustee approvals, and input from constituents across the Arcadia University community, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania approved the articles of incorporation for Beaver College Foundation on April 17, 2023. The Foundation has received its first gift of \$250,000 from a donor who wishes to remain anonymous.

The Foundation will serve as a separate but affiliated nonprofit entity, whose mission is to support the brightest possible future for Arcadia University through either transformative gifts or support for transformative projects.

“Beaver College Foundation is the manifestation of Arcadia’s deep commitment to Beaver College’s legacy, and is a concrete way to provide a tangible anchor for dramatic institutional transformation,” said **Brigette A. Bryant**, vice president for Development and Alumni Engagement, who shepherded the Foundation to its approval.

The Foundation will focus on the enhancement of Arcadia’s student experience, ensure financial aid, encourage academic vibrancy throughout the University, position Arcadia as an academic innovator, and anchor the University as a social mobility engine for students.

The genesis for the Foundation was an aspirational idea from **Anne Westerfield ’62** presented in January 2020. Since then, the Foundation appointed three inaugural Foundation Board of Trustees members: **Susan Smyth Shenker ’69** (Chair), University Trustee **Lynne Cannon ’68** (Vice Chair), and **Alison Aaron Madsen ’85** (Secretary). They have since been joined by two additional Trustees, Arcadia University Dean Emeritus **Rebecca L. Craik, PT, PhD, FAPTA**, and **Richard Tressider ’90MEd**.

While Cannon serves to provide continuity between current University Trustees and Beaver College Foundation, Shenker and Madsen are both former University Board Trustees in excellent standing, who have a deep and intimate knowledge of Arcadia’s potential through their former Board and current volunteer service.

“Creating opportunities to be transformational in young lives isn’t a need that lessens over time,” said Madsen. “In fact, the expectation today is that higher education should have even more value added. The Foundation will help Arcadia match motivated donors with those opportunities for real change.”

“It’s been our tradition to attempt and succeed at bold new endeavors,” said Shenker. “We were among the earliest institutions to educate women and one of the first to have students study abroad. The Beaver College Foundation is an inspired idea and it is my honor to serve as an Inaugural Trustee with two other women who have for decades served the University with distinction.”

Madsen added, “Once you get involved at Arcadia, it’s hard to walk away. There are the wonderful relationships, the common purpose of improving lives and minds, and the chance to keep working with President Nair and his awesome leadership team.”

More updates about the Foundation will be forthcoming in the weeks and months ahead, including a celebratory Foundation event next year.

“Our University has a storied past as Beaver College and a bright future as Arcadia University, and I look forward to expanding our team and beginning the important work we have before us,” Shenker said. “Beaver College is the strong foundation upon which Arcadia University has been built. Let us never forget our roots. I support Arcadia University because it is Beaver College as it has evolved in the 21st century. I believe Beaver College Foundation will be a major, positive addition to the University and I feel fortunate to be a part of it.”

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