BRINGING KNOWLEDGE TO LIFE

Our region faces serious challenges. An economy that once thrived on manufacturing now suffers as jobs have been eliminated. Without higher education, our young people may not experience the same quality of life as their parents’ and grandparents’ generations.

The Ohio State University at Marion takes these challenges seriously. With a wide variety of courses at two-thirds the cost of Columbus’ campus, small classes taught by experienced professors, and a campus that harnesses its natural beauty for learning, Ohio State Marion offers an exceptional educational experience.

Ohio State Marion is also committed to community outreach. Our campus partners with community nonprofits, engages lifelong learners, and promotes Marion’s unique contributions to the U.S. presidency to an international community of scholars and history buffs through the Warren G. Harding Symposium.

But for Ohio State Marion, many area residents would be unable to experience a top-notch university education. Please join me in supporting a future for Marion that is driven by hope and innovation—a future in which higher education advances our region into the 21st century knowledge and technology economy—by giving to Ohio State Marion through the But for Ohio State campaign.

Gregory Rose
Dean and Director
The Ohio State University at Marion
THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY AT MARION PROVIDES THE ATMOSPHERE OF A SMALL liberal arts college with the educational resources of a major university. Our campus serves an important role in meeting the land-grant tradition of open admissions, welcoming students who may be the first generation in their families to attend college, students of both traditional and non-traditional age, and anyone who seeks a better life through higher education.

At Ohio State Marion, our students may complete degrees in six selected majors on the Marion campus, or they may begin studies in 175 bachelor degree programs to be completed later at the Columbus campus. Our students are part of the Buckeye family and have access to opportunities and activities on the Marion and Columbus campuses, including libraries, research facilities, computer labs, student organizations, concerts, and even football tickets.
What does Ohio State mean to Marion’s new economy?

SOME OF THE WORLD’S LARGEST MACHINES WERE BUILT IN MARION, OHIO—HUGE shovels that extracted coal to fuel the Industrial Revolution, and the giant transporter that carried space shuttles to and from their launch pads at Cape Canaveral. However, like the rest of the country, Marion’s manufacturing base has dwindled. The community still produces more clothes dryers than anywhere else in the world, but community leaders understand that an educated citizenry will attract tomorrow’s employers and keep the community alive.

Fortunately, Marion is one of five communities outside Columbus that is home to a campus of The Ohio State University. About 2,000 students a year study on this intimate campus to become teachers, scientists, and engineers. Some complete their degree on the Marion campus. Others will move to Columbus to refine their major and participate in world-class research.

To take full advantage of Ohio State’s presence in Marion, our students will soon need new science facilities. The replacement of outdated labs built over 40 years ago will help local students participate more fully in the new economy and help Marion attract top-notch faculty. A growing number of forward-looking Marion residents recognize the need and have made significant pledges toward a new science building. They include Sims Brothers Recycling and the company’s owner Gary Sims, industrial developer Ted Graham, local physician Jay Moodley, and 97-year-old former florist Trella Romine.

“This community has been wonderful to me and my family,” says Sims. “It’s important for us to give back.” He and his company have each committed $50,000 to a new science facility. “I want to do my part to make sure this piece of Ohio State has the tools it needs to keep our kids ahead of the curve.”
What does Ohio State mean to Marion’s future?

ON THOUSANDS OF REFRIGERATOR DOORS ACROSS THE CITY OF MARION, YOU’LL FIND them hung like the trophies they are—the 8x10 certificates that carry The Ohio State University at Marion logo and represent student achievement and good attendance. Every student in the Marion City School District can earn $25 worth of tuition to Ohio State Marion for every quarter of their K-12 years in which their attendance is above 93 percent, and $50 in future tuition every quarter for hitting achievement goals. It’s called the “GoBuck$” program, started in the fall of 2010 by Ohio State Marion in partnership with the Marion City Schools.

When redeemed, the vouchers turn into real scholarships made possible by Marion business owner and philanthropist George Alber, who left $16 million to the Marion campus to fund scholarships for worthy Marion County students. Hundreds have benefited from the endowment he created in 1997 through traditional scholarships to Ohio State Marion. Now, through GoBuck$, those dollars are having a broad impact in this city where bachelor degree attainment hovers just between 10 and 12 percent and the poverty rate is over 20 percent.

Kids as young as six-years-old are earning a future college education. Every day as they pass by their home’s refrigerator door, they are reminded that college is possible—and that a piece of one of America’s best universities resides in their hometown.

After just two years, the GoBuck$ program is having an impact. At least two dozen Harding High School students redeemed their awards and are attending Ohio State Marion, including some of the top 20 students from the classes of 2011 and 2012. Marion City Schools has achieved the state benchmark for attendance, with 30,000 additional student days recorded. And hundreds of “Junior Buckeyes” are being encouraged to do well in school, attend college, and, eventually, become the educated citizens who allow Marion to thrive and survive in the decades ahead.
WHAT DOES A LEGACY LOOK LIKE? IN MARION, OHIO, IT LOOKS LIKE ONE OHIO
State education multiplying into many more.

In a sepia-toned picture, a 20-year old George Alber peers up from his three-point stance—the left wing of a leather-clad Buckeye football team posed outside a brand new Ohio Stadium. His hair is neatly combed, brow furrowed. The young George Alber meant business. When he graduated with a business degree in 1929, Alber went to work making fertilizer in his home town. Plant Life Fertilizer, the company he founded in Marion, became the largest privately-held fertilizer company in the country.

When Alber passed away on Thanksgiving Day in 1997, he left half of his $32 million estate to be invested on behalf of The Ohio State University at Marion to provide scholarships for Marion County students.

One such beneficiary of Mr. Alber’s generosity was Mariann Fetter, whose father knew Mr. Alber. She began her college career at a small liberal arts college as a music major. A string of bad luck including deaths in the family and lost jobs meant that, even with her scholarships, the 3.8 GPA student could no longer afford private college tuition. So she turned to The Ohio State University at Marion. In one day, she was accepted, paired with a counselor, signed up for classes—and given scholarships made possible by George Alber’s endowment. “It made everything possible,” she said. “It was a huge relief and a load off my shoulders.”

George Alber’s Ohio State business education gave him the tools to grow his firm and eventually to give Mariann Fetter—and hundreds more Marion students—the ability to realize their dreams.
AS ONE OF FOUR REGIONAL CAMPUSES THROUGHOUT THE STATE, OHIO STATE Marion exemplifies the land-grant mission of The Ohio State University—offering Ohio State-quality education at two-thirds the cost. We educate nearly 2,000 students each year, a number that is expected to grow as we continue to spread our message to students as early as grade school that college is a realistic, attainable, and an increasingly necessary option for keeping pace with our global economy.

From our inception in Marion in 1957, community investment has been an essential component of this campus. To continue the progress we have made, community investment remains essential to realizing the full potential of Ohio State Marion. Tuition and public funding provide the basics, but only philanthropy can help us provide the upgrades to facilities and increased scholarship support that will help us meet students’ needs as we work to become a greater catalyst for opportunity in Marion. Together, with your support, we can help those in our communities who want to transform their futures and create new opportunities for themselves and their families.
PLACE STUDENTS FIRST
$4,200,000
At Ohio State Marion, we are committed to ensuring access and success for our students. Generous funding for need- and merit-based scholarships helps fulfill students’ dreams of higher education and strengthens the future of our community. A large gift from Marion entrepreneur George Alber in the 1990s, in addition to 45 other endowments, allows us to award over $1 million in scholarships annually to Ohio State Marion students, but additional funding is needed to keep pace with our students’ need.

We are especially in need of “portable” scholarships—those that can be granted to an Ohio State Marion student with financial need while here and then follow that student into other Ohio State programs, whether in Columbus or another campus location. With your gift to support scholarships that offer the support and flexibility students need, we will help those who aspire to a better life for themselves and their families.

Gifts to place students first could also be used to extend our Go Buck$ program so that children from area school districts in addition to Marion City Schools can be motivated to attain higher education.

CREATE MODERN LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS
$4,989,000
Without question, the top priority for the Marion campus is the need for a dedicated science building. A new building will enable us to keep pace with contemporary laboratory space needs, increase the breadth and depth of the science instruction currently available, and expand our ability to offer advanced scientific courses in chemistry, biology, geology, physics, and more.

We envision the new science building utilizing the adjacent 11-acre Prairie Nature Center, along with a nearby oak savanna and reconstructed wetlands as outdoor “living laboratories.” A new science facility will allow us to partner with the area’s agricultural and food processing industries in research and internships for the students who will be attracted here.

Furthermore, as Ohio State Marion serves an increasing number of students, becoming a campus of choice for those who seek an affordable, top-notch education, additional renovations are necessary for upgrading campus life. Dining facilities in the Alber Student Center will become a hub for students and faculty alike through a space that emphasizes our shared Buckeye experience.

Additionally, to enhance the student experience, we are creating recreational facilities, such as sand volleyball, basketball courts, and disc golf to allow students to socialize and explore the best of intramural sports together. New walkways connecting the campus to adjacent commercial and residential areas will make our campus a more beautiful, comfortable place to live and learn.

CAMPAIGN PRIORITIES

- Place Students First $4,200,000
- Create Modern Learning Environments $4,989,000

Total $9,189,000
When people talk about progress, they talk about the Ohio State University at Marion. We are transforming our community, one student at a time.
THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY AT MARION IS AN INTEGRAL PART OF OUR REGION’S revitalization, as we build an educated citizenry that will become Marion’s future business owners, executives, teachers, and community leaders. Increasingly, when people talk about progress, they talk about Ohio State Marion; our success is interwoven in the fabric of the community.

Progress means doubling the percentage of Marion County adults with bachelor’s degrees from 12.3 percent to the state average of 23.6 percent. It means stimulating economic development by preparing innovators and flexible thinkers for the knowledge economy of the 21st century.

And progress means that current and future generations of area residents can experience the same levels of prosperity and quality of life that many in our region experienced at the height of the manufacturing boom.

Your support for Ohio State Marion during the But for Ohio State campaign will ensure our joint success. Whether you support our students’ dreams of a better life through a gift of scholarships, or help us create spaces that promote scholarship and enhance student life, you are investing in the promise of higher education and its ability to move our community forward.
THE EXTRAORDINARY PEOPLE AT THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY BELIEVE THE ANSWERS to these and other monumental questions will ultimately be “yes.” But for Ohio State’s immense breadth and depth of academic programs, outstanding students, world-class scholars, and extensive research capabilities, some of today’s most brilliant interdisciplinary teams would not be closer than ever to finding meaningful solutions for people in Ohio and far, far beyond.

Instead, because of the talent, intellect, and ambition at Ohio State, one of the most comprehensive universities in the nation, significant progress is possible on nearly every front. Founded because Abraham Lincoln believed education could lead the nation out of its darkest days, Ohio State now provides a powerful platform, unparalleled in scope and opportunity, from which leaders emerge and change the world.

The But for Ohio State campaign is a $2.5 billion fundraising endeavor that invites those who believe in Ohio State to invest in our students, our faculty, and our potential. By supporting Ohio’s land-grant institution, alumni, friends, parents, and partners can help us secure educational opportunities for future generations of students and meet the enormous challenges we face as a society. Together, we will sustain an enduring tradition of scholarship, service, and pride.

But for Ohio State … How would you answer? What does Ohio State mean to you?
What does it mean to you?

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