Celebrating Penn State’s Philanthropic Leaders

Rising above State College and the University Park campus, Mount Nittany has inspired awe and pride for generations of Penn Staters. Named for this cherished natural landmark, the Mount Nittany Society represents the pinnacle of philanthropy to Penn State.

From the inaugural group of 149 members in 1977, to the more than 1,700 supporters recognized today, the members of the Mount Nittany Society have demonstrated a level of generosity towards Penn State that has been nothing less than remarkable. The aim of the Society is to celebrate those individuals whose philanthropy is having the greatest impact across the University through gifts to any and every aspect of our mission. As the University’s top donors, members of the Mount Nittany Society are taking the lead in making Penn State an even stronger institution for the twenty-first century.

The Mount Nittany Society celebrates those individuals whose cumulative lifetime giving to Penn State has reached or exceeded $250,000 in irrevocable commitments. Within the Society, members of the Laurel Circle have achieved cumulative lifetime giving that has reached $1,000,000, while members of the Elm Circle have reached $5,000,000.

“You see Penn State as a place where opportunity is realized, you know what Penn Staters are capable of, and you understand that you play a critical role in making this great institution even greater. On behalf of all of Penn State, thank you for being a part of our history, our present and our future.”

President Eric Barron, addressing the members of the Mount Nittany Society in 2015
The benefits of membership include:

- Formal induction into the Society, and to each giving level, at the annual gala
- A lifetime invitation to the Society's annual gala held each spring at the University Park campus
- Inclusion on the Mount Nittany Society donor wall at the Nittany Lion Inn
- Special invitations to local, regional, and national University-hosted events with access to University leadership
- Timely communication about Penn State's accomplishments and challenges
- A subscription to the We Are magazine, Penn State's philanthropy publication

All new members of the Mount Nittany Society, Laurel Circle, and Elm Circle are inducted at a ceremony held each spring, where they are introduced by President Barron and welcomed by the other members of the Society. Through innovative programming, the event also features students, faculty, and other representatives of the Penn State community whose words and stories demonstrate the life-changing impact of philanthropy.

While the benefits of membership are significant, the greatest reward for supporters is the knowledge that their philanthropy is creating opportunities for Penn State's students and faculty members that may not otherwise be possible. Through their exceptional generosity, the members of the Mount Nittany Society are allowing Penn State to remain steadfast in its commitment to world-class teaching, research, and service. And the example they’re setting is challenging all Penn Staters to reach higher, dream bigger, and do more to make the University stronger in the years ahead.

As a major supporter of the University, you too can become a part of this extraordinary group.

“Your gifts give students the opportunity to dream big, to follow their dreams, and to make those dreams real…On behalf of myself and the many students I’ve met who are daring to dream big, but who couldn’t do it alone, I want to say, ‘thank you.’"

Jordan Chapman, a Penn State senior from Philadelphia and scholarship recipient, speaking about the impact of philanthropy at the 2015 Mount Nittany Society Dinner

For more information about the Mount Nittany Society, please contact:

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