



acuho-i
Foundation

2025 Annual Report

Investing in People. Strengthening the Profession.

Dear Friends,

The ACUHO-I Research and Education Foundation exists because of people like you—people who believe deeply in the power of the campus housing and residence life profession and the impact it has on students' lives. As we look back on 2025, we do so with tremendous appreciation for the generosity, care, and commitment of this community.

Your support helped remove financial barriers, encouraged innovation, and reinforced the Foundation's commitment to advancing campus housing and residence life—especially during a time of increasing challenges across higher education.

We also saw the enduring strength of leadership and legacy this year. Through growing endowments and unparalleled engagement during the Annual Week of Giving, corporate and individual donors came together to honor the past, support the present, and invest in a future filled with opportunity for the profession we all love.

Above all, this report reflects a community united by generosity. Whether you gave for the first time, continued a tradition of giving, or honored a mentor or colleague, your support is felt far beyond this year and powered the profession. It strengthens ACUHO-I and helps ensure that campus housing and residence life professionals have what they need to thrive.

Thank you for believing in this work, trusting the Foundation, and for being part of a community that cares so deeply. Together, we are building a stronger future—and we are grateful to have you with us.

With gratitude,

Tim Touchette
2025 Chair,
ACUHO-I Foundation

Mary M. DeNiro
CEO & Executive Director,
ACUHO-I

Ray Gasser
2025 Finance and Corporate Records Officer,
ACUHO-I Foundation

Laurel Palmer
Director of Development,
ACUHO-I Foundation

Investing in the Future of Campus Housing and Residence Life

The ACUHO-I Foundation is the only organization dedicated to raising funds to support large-scale educational programs, research initiatives, and practice innovations that strengthen campus housing and residence life worldwide. Your gift ensures that professionals have the tools, knowledge, and resources to thrive.

- **Driving innovation** through responsible stewardship of donor-supported resources
- **Expanding opportunity** with greater access to research, education, and professional development
- **Championing ACUHO-I's mission** as the only fundraising organization dedicated to its global impact

Discover the impact of more than \$401,191 in generous donations in 2025. Nearly 1,000 donors changed the lives of professionals this year.

Scholarships

As professional development funding has become more limited across higher education, the ACUHO-I Foundation has increased scholarship support to ensure continued access to high impact learning opportunities. These scholarships enable professionals to participate in experiences such as the James C. Grimm National Housing Training Institute and Campus Home. LIVE!—investments that strengthen leadership, expand skills, and advance careers in campus housing and residence life.

To maximize impact, scholarship awards are prioritized for professionals with demonstrated financial need, those working at institutions with fewer than 3,000 beds, individuals early in their campus housing careers, and first time attendees—expanding access to professional development opportunities that might otherwise be out of reach.

In 2025 you helped provide:

**115 totaling
\$64,302**

Total Scholarships

23

Unrestricted Scholarships

92

Endowment Scholarships

From First Conference to Lasting Impact: Charah McKinzie's ACUHO-I Experience



For Charah McKinzie, attending the ACUHO-I Residence Education Conference in St. Louis was more than a professional milestone—it was a moment of affirmation and inspiration

As the Program Coordinator for Living Learning Communities at Southern Illinois University, Charah's work focuses on creating meaningful, inclusive campus living experiences that help students navigate college life and graduate with real-world, transferable skills. Yet, before this experience, she had never attended an ACUHO-I conference.

With the support of an ACUHO-I Foundation scholarship, Charah was able to participate in her first national conference—an opportunity she describes as both energizing and transformative.

"It was refreshing to meet individuals from different parts of the country to discuss key topics that are relevant to my line of work," she shared.

From the moment the conference began, Charah felt connected to a wider community of housing and residence life professionals who shared her commitment to student success. The opening session left a lasting impression, particularly the emphasis on fostering a culture of caring in higher education.

"For much of the work housing and residence life does involves creating environments that promote inclusiveness and belonging," Charah reflected. "Those words really resonated with me."

Throughout the conference, sessions focused on the evolving needs of students, the complexity of Living Learning Communities, and innovative strategies for engagement—especially with Generation Z. One session on assessing the return on investment of LLCs sparked immediate reflection, prompting Charah to evaluate how her institution communicates the value of programs and campus resources.

"Sometimes it's not about the lack of resources," she noted, "but the strategies used to make resources more visible."

The Residence Education Plenary became a “guiding star,” offering practical frameworks Charah has already begun sharing with colleagues and integrating into her work. The insights she gained are shaping how she structures, assesses, and enhances programs—ensuring they are both intentional and impactful.

By the end of the conference, Charah returned to campus not only with new tools and ideas, but with a renewed sense of purpose and belonging within the profession.

“Overall, I enjoyed my experience and hope to have the opportunity to attend another conference in the future.”

Charah’s story reflects the heart of the ACUHO-I Foundation’s mission: expanding access to professional development opportunities that empower individuals, strengthen institutions, and ultimately enhance the student experience. Thanks to donor support, one first-time conference attendee is now equipped to lead with greater confidence, creativity, and care—benefiting countless students in the years ahead.



Your Gift Makes a Difference



STARS College

"We wanted to say a heartfelt "thank you!" for the opportunity to attend the 2025 STARS College program. Your support made it possible for our student leaders to learn more about careers in student affairs. Thank you again for investing in students!"

*Kenzie Mullins and Ben Crawford,
Missouri State University*



Campus Home. LIVE!

"It meant so much to have this opportunity. I left the conference with renewed energy, fresh ideas, and a broader perspective on the work we do. Thank you for your generosity and for investing in the development of professionals like me. Your support made this experience possible."

*Ricky Harris,
University of Central Arkansas*



NHTI

"NHTI reminded me why I chose this profession and why I belong here. It not only strengthened my skills and knowledge but also reignited my passion and confidence in serving students. The institute provided invaluable tools, meaningful connections, and lasting inspiration that I will carry throughout my career. I believe NHTI provides campus housing professionals with a transformative space to grow, reflect, and reconnect with the purpose and impact of their work."

*Jai'Lyn C. Lover M.Ed,
Winston Salem State University*

Research

The ACUHO-I Foundation invests in research that informs practice, drives innovation, and enhances student housing and residential education worldwide.

In 2025, you helped provide: **\$162,425 to drive research that informs policy and practice**, proving the value of campus housing.

RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT: ADVANCING KNOWLEDGE, STRENGTHENING CAMPUS COMMUNITIES

In 2025, the ACUHO-I Foundation continued its commitment to elevating the campus housing profession through strategic investments in research. These initiatives not only deepen our understanding of the student experience but also equip practitioners with data-driven insights that shape more inclusive, supportive, and effective residential communities.



Co-funded the
Research Initiatives
Manager



Supported the Campus
Housing Index



Funded 3 new
research grants

The Campus Housing Index

The Campus Housing Index (CHI) continues to serve as a vital benchmarking resource for institutions seeking data-driven insights into staffing, operations, facilities, and the student residential experience. After several years of steady participation, the CHI saw a meaningful uptick this past year, with nearly 12.3% growth in institutional participation compared to the previous cycle. This renewed engagement reflects the profession's increasing reliance on shared data to guide strategic planning and advocate for resources.

- 175 institutions contributed data in 2024–25
- Representation from 42 states
- Over 400 data points collected across operations, staffing, and student experience
- Institutions report using CHI findings to guide decisions on budgeting, staffing models, and capital planning



The Funded Research Grant: Supporting Innovation and Emerging Scholars

The Foundation's funded research grants continue to empower scholars whose work addresses some of the most pressing issues in campus housing and residence life. Since 2015, the program has awarded more than \$190,000 to 38 research studies, strengthening the profession's knowledge base and supporting emerging and established researchers alike. In 2025, the program also saw increased global engagement, with two applications from non-U.S. institutions, broadening both the reach and relevance of the research portfolio.

Last year's funded projects explored critical topics such as:

- Belonging and inclusion in RA training
- Campus spaces and student friendship patterns
- Mental health and international student experience in campus housing

These grants not only advance the profession's knowledge base but also nurture emerging researchers who bring fresh perspectives and innovative methodologies to the field.

Research Making an Impact: Turning Insights Into Action

Across all the Foundation's research initiatives, a consistent theme emerges: donor support fuels work that strengthens the residential experience and equips campus housing professionals with evidence-based strategies. The 2025 funded studies, spanning belonging and inclusion in RA training, the role of campus spaces in shaping student friendships, and the mental health experiences of international students, demonstrate how research can illuminate emerging challenges and guide meaningful improvements in practice.

Together, this research advances the profession's knowledge base while generating practical insights that help institutions create safer, more supportive, and more connected residential environments. It also reflects the Foundation's ongoing commitment to investing in scholarship that elevates the student experience and communicates the essential value of campus housing.

Education

The ACUHO-I Foundation provides education support that expands access to professional learning opportunities, helping housing and residence life professionals build skills, advance careers, and better serve students.

In 2025, **\$39,991 created pathways for learning and connection**, empowering professionals to grow and collaborate.

- Supported Leadership Academy
- Funded webinars to expand access and learning opportunities
- Funded 188 Housing Internship applications
- Awarded 4 Bridge Memberships to professionals



Leadership Academy: Developing the Future Leaders Today



2025 Leadership Academy Cohort

Since 2019, the ACUHO-I Leadership Academy has invested in mid-level housing and residence life professionals who are ready to step into greater leadership—on their campuses and within the Association. Grounded in ACUHO-I's belief that different perspectives and inclusive pathways strengthen the profession, the Academy supports professionals with five to seven years of experience through an intentional, cohort-based leadership development experience.

Participants grow personally and professionally through monthly meetings, coaching calls, mentorship, and targeted leadership learning. The Academy is designed to translate learning into action, preparing participants to lead authentically, contribute strategically, and advance the future of housing and residence life.

The results are clear: Leadership Academy alumni remain engaged, advance in their careers, and serve as leaders throughout ACUHO-I—strengthening the Association and the profession for years to come.

LEADERSHIP ACADEMY ALUMNI IMPACT

Since 2019

- **44** alumni have completed the Leadership Academy
- **77%** remain engaged in ACUHO-I leadership, conferences, or institutes
- **35%** have held Association leadership roles, including chairs, faculty, mentors, and Executive Board members
- **3** alumni have served on the ACUHO-I Executive Board
- **2** alumni have served as Foundation Trustees
- **7** alumni have returned as Leadership Academy mentors
- **70%** have advanced or changed positions within the profession

The ACUHO-I Leadership Academy is more than a professional development program—it is an investment in people, in inclusive leadership, and in the long-term strength of the housing and residence life profession. With the support of the ACUHO-I Foundation and its donors, the Academy continues to cultivate leaders who are prepared to serve, inspire, and guide the profession forward.

Your Support Powers Online Learning

ACUHO I's Online Learning Platform continued to thrive in 2025—connecting members to timely, high quality professional development opportunities wherever they are. In 2025, your gifts made possible:

- **2,200+** members served
- **1,795** webinar participants
- **407** virtual symposia
- **85** online courses delivered

Your investment strengthens access, innovation, and learning across our profession.

Recognition

Congratulations to our 2025 AWARD Recipients

OUTSTANDING CORPORATE FRIEND AWARD

Recognizes corporate individuals who contribute to our association and our profession. Recipients are a current Foundation Industry Partner with a minimum of three years of involvement with ACUHO-I and consistently demonstrate a sincere interest and participation in ACUHO-I, its mission, programs, and educational mission.

Angela Powell,
Brill Furniture



S. EARLY THOMPSON AWARD

Honors an individual who, though they may not be directly related to ACUHO-I, has nonetheless made a significant contribution to the campus housing field through their efforts.

Kevin Kruger,
NASPA



Parthenon Award

The ACUHO-I Foundation's most prestigious honor, the Parthenon Society, recognizes individuals whose careers reflect exceptional leadership, service, and lasting contributions to campus housing and residence life. We are proud to celebrate and congratulate the 2025 Parthenon Society inductees for their extraordinary impact on the profession.

In recognition of this distinguished class, more than 500 gifts were made in their honor. These tributes not only celebrate the pinnacle of professional achievement but also create meaningful, forward-looking impact. A portion of gifts made to honor the Parthenon Class directly support housing internship application scholarships, investing in the next generation of housing and residence life professionals.

This powerful connection—honoring lifelong dedication while opening doors for emerging leaders—beautifully reflects the enduring legacy of the profession and the promise of what is still to come.



Allan Blattner,
Carolina Housing at the
University of North Carolina
at Chapel Hill



Lionel Maten,
The University of
Mississippi



D'aun Green,
Texas Tech University



Luis Inoa,
Vassar College



Terri Gray,
CORT

Foundation of Excellence

An honorary group made up of people and entities instrumental in ACUHO-I or regional organizations. The honorees have made significant commitment to the housing profession, service, and mentorship for others in the field. We welcome the following 2025 honorees:

Wimer Alberto	Kathy Bush Hobgood
Vinnie Birkenmeyer	Kafele Khalfani
Brandon Chandler	Andy McDade
Paula Diaz	LaFarin Meriwether
Jill Eckardt	Rian Nostrum
Renee Richard-Gonce	Cory Shapiro
Nathan Gordon	Michelle Sujka
Brooks Hetle	Tim Touchette

Learn more about nominating
an outstanding candidate here:



Foundation of Excellence - ACUHO-I
acuho-i.org/acuhoi-foundation/foundation-of-excellence/

Make an Impact

2025 ANNUAL WEEK OF GIVING

Thanks to the extraordinary generosity of the **Lee Thompson Family**, our lead donor, and the support of corporate matching and sponsoring partners, the 2025 Annual Week of Giving raised a record-breaking **\$60,902 from 182 donors**. We are deeply grateful to every donor whose generosity made this record-breaking week possible—your support strengthens ACUHO-I and expands opportunities for professionals and students across higher education.

A special thanks to our 2025 matching donors:

- **Lee Thompson Family (Southwest Contract)**
- **Blockhouse Co., Inc.**
- **Coly Technologies**
- **GradGuard**
- **Off Campus Partners**
- **Safeguard Marketing Solutions**
- **Smarter Furnishings**
- **Sodexo**
- **StarRez**
- **Storage Squad**
- **University and Student Services**

Endowments

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN PERPETUITY

ACUHO-I's investment manager is Merrill Lynch. Our first objective is to protect the assets that so many donors have given. The second is to grow those assets over time. As of December 31, 2025, the ACUHO-I Foundation endowment was \$1,575,002 with 14 endowed funds. Endowed gifts make a transformational impact in ACUHO-I members lives. These funds may be established with a minimum \$25,000 investment over three years.

Two new endowments were established in 2025:

Dr. Carmen L. Vance Endowment in Honor of Scott R. Boden Fund

Recognizes the unique and special contributions of LGBTQ+ persons to the college and university housing profession and the importance of engaging mid-level professionals. The Fund will be used expressly to provide professional development scholarships or grants to deserving members of the college and university housing profession with financial need.

AIMHO

Assists in funding professional development opportunities offered by ACUHO-I for members of the AIMHO region through annual award reimbursements.

Thank you to **Dr. Carmen Vance and many AIMHO supporters** who generously made these endowments possible. You've created a lasting legacy and made opportunities more accessible to those who need financial assistance for professional development.



Scan the QR code
to learn more
about ACUHO-I
Foundation
Endowments

ACUHO-I Foundation Endowments

AIMHO

Dr. Carmen L. Vance Endowment in Honor of
Scott R. Boden Fund

Gaber Leadership

Gary SchwarzmueLLer

GLACUHO

James C. Grimm

James Hurd

Lisa Pierce

Paul and Diane Jahr Endowment

Robert P. Cooke

SEAHO Legacy Fund

Lee Thompson Family/Southwest Contract

NWACUHO

UMR-ACUHO

2025 Major Donor Supporters

The Legacy Society and Individual Major Donor sustaining donor levels recognize annual giving by honoring donors who give \$1,000 or more during the fiscal year in unrestricted funds. Thank you for your generosity.

Legacy Society Donors:

Tom Ellett

(25-year pledge)

Jill Eckardt

(20-year pledge)

Alma Sealine

(15-year pledge)

Jason Taylor

(10-year pledge)

Lee Thompson Sr.

(25-year pledge)

Carmen Vance

(25-year pledge)

Individual Major Donors
20-year pledge (\$20,000+)

Suzy Campbell

Connie Carson

Larry and Kwan Christenson

Terri Gray

Patricia and Dino Martinez

David B. Stephen

15-year pledge (\$15,000+)

Willie Brown

Kathy Bush Hobgood

Lori Patterson

Stephanie McDade

Andrew McDade

Pam Schreiber

Brad Shaw

Von Stange

Shannon Staten

10-year pledge (\$10,000+)

Kate Baier

Allan Blattner

Scott Boden & Don Stenta

Diane Brittingham

Teri Bump

Melinda Carlson

Mary DeNiro

Lisa Freeman

Olan Garrett

Ray Gasser

Lisa Hale-Meindl

Tom Hardy

Mary & Jeff Janz

Tim Johnson

10-year pledge (\$10,000+)

Kirsten Kennedy

Gay Perez

Paul Riel

Gary & Beth SchwarzmueUer

Alvin Sturdivant

Tim Touchette

5-year pledge (\$5,000+)

Wimer Alberto

Jeremy Alexander

Dei Allard

Craig Allen

Shana Alston

George Arey

Philip Badaszewski

Megan Becker

Chelsea Bennett

Vincent Birkenmeyer

Timothy Blair

Bonnie Brackett

Stephanie Carter-Atkins

Brandon Chandler

Mark Cordova

Jeremi Cheeks

Curtis Dugar

Norb Dunkel

Tory Elisca

Erik Elordi

Michel Frendian

Josh Gana

Richard Gibson

Nate Gordon

Michael & Lesley Griffel

Ana Hernandez

Steve Herndon

David Hibbler

Charles Holmes-Hope

Brenda Ice

5-year pledge (\$5,000+)

Luis Inoa

Jacob Knight

Crystal Lopez

John Lowney

Chris MacDonald

Kathryn Magura Krieger

Jean MacKimmie

Bill Mattera

Leon McClinton

Steve McKenzie

LaFarin Meriwether

Ian Miller

Andrew Naylor

Danielle Nied

Rian Nostrum

Kyle Oldham

Barry Olson

Joe Paulick

Dan Pedersen

Scott Rausch

Renee Richard-Gonce

Vern Rogers II

Janie Sacco

Kris Schraeder

Bill & Monica Shaub

Erik Sorensen

Chris and Kari Stone-Sewalish

Mari Strombom

Lauren Teso

Brandon Thompson

Nyerere Tryman

Casey Tullos

Elaine Turner

Terence Turner

Gina Vanacore

Lanché van Tonder

Cristal Visser

Rod Waters

Jennifer Wilder

Ryan Young

Corporate Major Donors

Corporate Partners are essential collaborators in advancing the mission of campus housing and residence life. Their partnership strengthens our community and amplifies our collective impact.

To be recognized as a Corporate Major Donor, partners commit to a minimum pledge of \$10,000 annually for five years. While most contributions are unrestricted—fueling broad member programs and innovations—some gifts support specific research grants, institutes, or scholarships that shape the future of our field.



2025 Financials

\$2,504,338 Total Net Assets

- **\$929,336** Unrestricted
- **\$1,575,002** Restricted

\$401,191 – 2025 Giving-Related Income

- **\$130,000** - Corporate Major Donors
- **\$105,948** - Individual Contributions
- **\$38,043** – Industry Partner (Gold, Silver, Bronze)
- **\$41,304** - Parthenon Campaigns
- **\$60,902** - 2025 Annual Week of Giving
- **\$24,994** - Campus Home. LIVE!

Allocation of Expenses

- **43% Programming***
- **32% Fundraising**
- **25% Operations**

*Education Support expenditures were lower than anticipated, representing 6.4% of total spending versus a 13.9% budgeted allocation. This variance was driven by timing of programs rather than a reduction in commitment.

ACUHO-I Foundation

VISION:

To ensure that every person has access to resources of the housing profession and is inspired to invest in its future.

MISSION:

Investing in people who make a difference in the campus housing profession worldwide.

Board of Trustees

Tim Touchette

Chair

Crystal Lopez

Chair Elect

Tom Hardy

Past Chair

Ray Gasser

Finance and Corporate
Records Officer

Sasha Masoomi

Vice Chair, Annual Programs

Mari Strombom

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LaFarin Meriwether

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Ex Officio

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Jill Eckardt

SWACUHO

Rian Nostrum

UMR-ACUHO

Kafele Khalfani

WACUHO

Staff Leadership

Mary M. DeNiro

CEO/Executive Director

Laurel Palmer

Director of Development



NEW SUSTAINING GIVING LEVELS IN 2025 – JOIN OUR IMPACT!

The Foundation offers flexible giving levels to meet donors where they are—because together, we can ensure campus housing continues to thrive.

Join us in shaping the future of campus housing. Your investment today creates opportunities, drives innovation, and strengthens the student experience for generations to come.

Become a sustaining donor! Sustaining gifts provide essential year-round funding to support ACUHO-I's areas of greatest need. To begin your recurring gift, visit give.acuho-i.org. On the donation page, select "Monthly" to set your preferences.

When you give, you're doing more than making a donation—you're investing in communities, cultivating leadership, and shaping the future of inclusive campus living. Your generosity doesn't just support programs; it transforms lives. Because of you, research progresses, professionals grow, and new opportunities take root and thrive.

Together, we're powering our profession.

Legacy Society:

\$150+/month for 5 years

Individual Major Donor Society:

\$85-\$149/month for 5 years

Trailblazer:

\$50-\$84/month

Pathfinder:

\$25-\$49/month

Builder:

\$10-\$24/month



Contact us at
Foundation@acuho-i.org
or scan the QR code to
learn more.

acuho-i *Foundation*

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