‘Because of UConn’ breaks record in annual fundraising

by Kevin Guinan
STAFF WRITER
HE/HIM/HIS
kcg21003@uconn.edu

The University of Connecticut had its largest fundraising year ever for fiscal year 2026 with $171 million raised after the university announced a new donation campaign, according to UConn Today.

“Because of UConn” was announced to the public on April 24, 2025, as the most ambitious fundraising campaign in the history of the university with a goal of $1.5 billion . The campaign currently sits just below the billion-dollar mark, exceeding $900 million in early June, according to UConn Today.

The campaign began in 2020 with a silent phase of fundraising that raised $720 million before UConn publicly announced the effort in 2025.

The UConn Foundation raised $71.4 million in the 2019 fiscal year before the silent phase of “Because of UConn” began, according to UConn Today. The $171 million raised during 2026 marks a 143% leap in annual donations for the public period in the campaign.

Four priorities were laid out in the campaign to guide donors towards gifts that propel the university’s mission, according to UConn Today. The categories were “students first,” “academic and innovation excellence,” “health and wellness of people and planet” and “Husky pride.”

One pillar which received the largest boost from new donations was the Students First Fund which saw a 930% increase in funding during fiscal year 2026, according to UConn Today. Since 2008, donors have been able to contribute to the fund, which provides students with limited emergency assistance of up to $1,000, according to the Norwich Bulletin.

Board of Trustees chairman and co-chair to the campaign Daniel Toscano told UConn Today that boosts to the Students First Fund should help the university’s graduation rate.

“Those resources [of the Students First Fund] provide critical support when students face unexpected challenges, helping ensure that a temporary hardship doesn’t become a barrier to earning a UConn degree,” Toscano said.

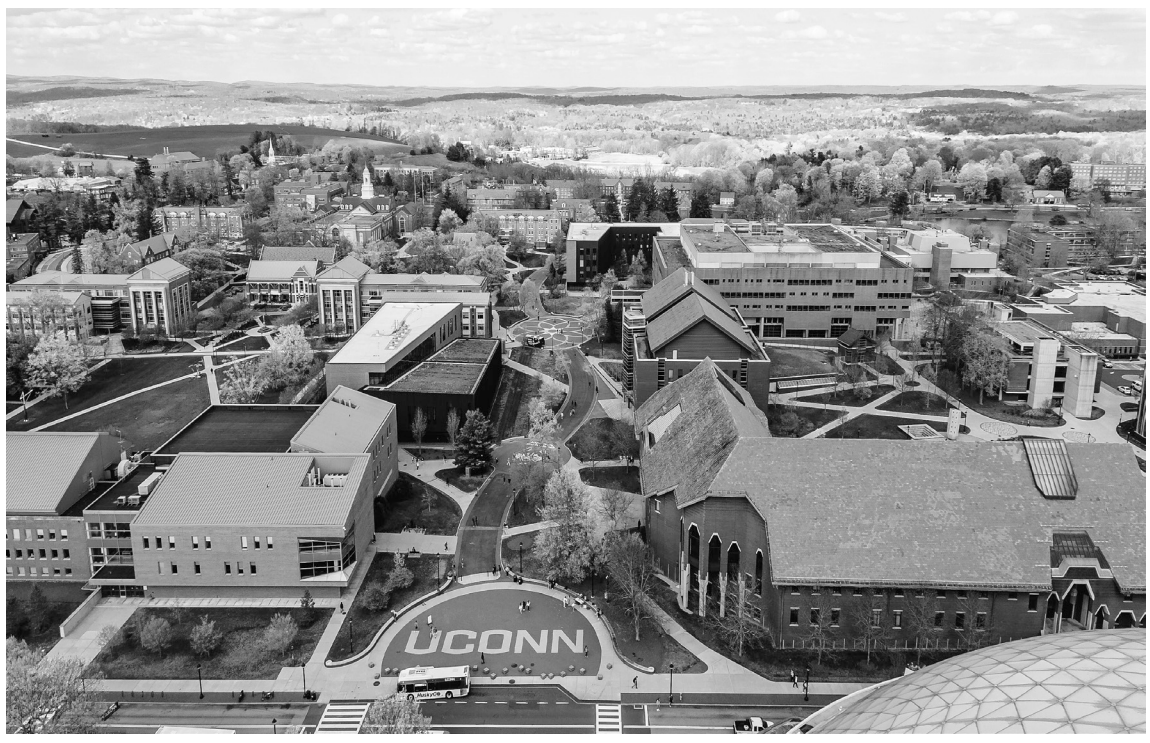
The campaign has received a mix of large and small donations with 89% of gifts from the 69,655 donors so far at this point of the campaign being under $1,000. Some of the leading gifts during this fiscal year addressed multiple of the campaign’s priorities.

One example comes from the Elisabeth C. DeLuca Foundation’s $10.45 million commitment to open new paths for nursing and STEM opportunities at UConn’s Waterbury campus. This gift aligned with three of the campaign’s priorities including students first, academic and innovation excellence and the health and wellness of people and planet, according to UConn Today.

Other large donations focused solely on a single target of the campaign like Husky pride, which focuses on student-athletes and athletic programs.

Robert Stefanie Skinner donated $15 million to support UConn’s athletic efforts. $10 million of that was dedicated towards a permanent endowed fund supporting the head coaches of the UConn men’s and women’s basketball teams, according to UConn Today.

“Because of UConn” also reached 85% of its engagement goal with the general community participating in alumni opportunities like events, volunteering and social media more than one million times, according to UConn Today.



UConn campus on a beautiful spring day from a birds eye view. Campus from the ground is one things but looking at the sky is breath taking. FILE PHOTO/THE DAILY CAMPUS

UConn Hartford opens first-ever residence hall on Pratt Street

by Patrick Boots
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT
HE/HIM/HIS
patrick.boots@uconn.edu

Students at the University of Connecticut’s campus in downtown Hartford are now able to experience college residentially thanks to the grand opening of a new permanent dormitory complex. Since opening in 2017, the regional facility operated exclusively as a commuter campus.

“This will be a major benefit to Hartford, to local businesses, and major employers, and most importantly, to our students,” UConn President Radenka Maric said at an Aug. 17 event commemorating the opening.

The new residence hall, located on the pedestrian-only Pratt Street, is just a short walk from UConn’s primary educational facility in Hartford, the Hartford Times Building on Front Street — and not too much further to the School of Social Work and School of Business annexes at Constitution Plaza.

The four-story building, which housed formerly vacant law offices, was renovated to include 50 furnished suites for up to 200 students. Amenities include a fitness room, a game center and conference rooms in addition to study spaces and the building’s original natural-light central atrium.

UConn also says there is a waiting list for the housing, complementing higher enrollment and retention at the Hartford campus.

Even closer to the dorms, however, are numerous dining, boutique shopping and entertainment destinations — including Peoples Bank Arena, home to UConn athletic contests, professional sports and special events — and soon, to over 50,000 square feet of UConn classroom and laboratory space.



Interior of the new Pratt Street Residence Hall for UConn Hartford undergraduates. The residence hall opened on August 17, 2026. PHOTO COURTESY OF @UCONNHARTFORD ON INSTAGRAM

“We won’t just study here, but we will be building a life right in the heart of the city,” said Arielle Crichlow, a seventh-semester political science student, at the ribbon-cutting.

She will also be one of the building’s first resident assistants.

“By supporting students with these residential opportunities, UConn isn’t just offering a place to sleep but a place to belong,” she said. “We have space to grow into leaders, to engage deeply with downtown Hartford’s vibrant culture, and truly call the city our home.”

Increased enrollment at the Hartford campus last year prompted the university to institute some near-campus housing as a pilot through leasing apartments at the Donaghue Residences on nearby Main Street.

The Pratt Street project, a partnership between UConn and developers Lexington Partners, Shelbourne Global Solutions and LAZ Investments, cost $29 million — partly funded by $5 million in grants, including $3 million from state urban development funds and $2 million from the city of Hartford plus a multi-year tax agreement. The Board of Trustees approved the deal in May 2024.

Shelbourne will continue to own the property, with UConn holding a master lease for 20 years.

According to officials, thousands of dollars in contributions from corporate sponsors, including the Travelers Insurance Companies, The Hartford and the Global Atlantic Financial Group, will go toward housing scholarships for Hartford-based students.

“Now all but one of our regional campuses has a housing component, which is such an important part of our student experience,” said Board of Trustees member Thomas Ritter at the opening ceremony.

The new residence property is the latest cornerstone of the state’s “UConn IN Hartford” initiative, which aims to establish Hartford as a “college town.”

“We want more activity in our streets, more customers for our small businesses, and more people experiencing Hartford after the workday ends,” said James Woulfe, the chief of staff to Hartford mayor Arunan Arulampalam, at the ribbon-cutting. “The students living here…they’ll begin to see Hartford not simply as the place they went to college, but as the place where they can start a career and a life.”

UConn Residential Life describes the new residence hall as “offer[ing] a distinctly urban college experience that blends convenience, opportunity, and energy.” They also said a UConn police outpost and further partnerships with local law enforcement support student safety at the new site.

Students move into the new Pratt Street Residence Hall starting Aug. 29.

UConn has operated an extension campus in the Hartford metro area since the 1940s, originally designed as a junior college model at branches across the capitol city. In 1970, a new multi-building Greater Hartford Campus opened in West Hartford and acted as UConn’s second-largest satellite location until 2017, when the Hartford Times Building on Prospect Street was remodeled into UConn’s current Hartford location.

Games

WEEKLY HOROSCOPE

by Maleena Muzio

Feb. 22 to Feb. 28

Welcome to the brand-new horoscope section of the paper! This horoscope is based on predictions made by AstroStyle or astrostyle.com. Keep reading to hear what to expect as Mercury enters its first retrograde of the year.

Overview

Be prepared to dig beyond the surface this week. Things or words may not be exactly what they seem. You will have to be your own detective to decipher a difficult or mixed-signal scenario.

Toward the end of the week, peace between one or many people may be difficult to keep. Stubbornness and tempers may reach a breaking point in a situation that has been long put off. Come clean — address the issue before it’s too late.

However, there is light at the end of the week. Your aspirations become one step closer as you build confidence. Say goodbye to imposter-syndrome and hello to courage!

Aries
March 21 – April 19
Past creative projects may come to fruition.

Taurus
April 20 – May 20
Be weary of overly romanticizing the “good old days.”

Gemini
May 21 – June 20
Workplace friction and career reevaluation may take place.

Cancer
June 21 – July 22
Think wisely before acting on impulse or assumptive opinions.

Leo
July 23 – Aug. 22
Things may have ended with someone for a reason — ask yourself “why” you want to reach out again.

Virgo
Aug. 23 – Sept. 22
Reflection of the past and choosing to filter yourself may be rewarding.

Libra
Sept. 23 – Oct. 23
Tackle those impending tasks before they become unmanageable.

Scorpio
Oct. 24 – Nov. 21
Think with your logic, be cautious of leading with emotions this week.

Sagittarius
Nov. 22 – Dec. 21
Your judgement may be slightly skewed. Double check your senses before assuming hostility.

Capricorn
Dec. 22 – Jan. 19
Pay attention to wake-up calls and re-check everything before you submit it this week.

Aquarius
Jan. 20 – Feb. 18
Steer clear of inner circle drama that may present itself.

Pisces
Feb. 19 – March 20
Be clear with your words and speak up for your true intentions.

CLASSIFIEDS

Policy: Classifieds are non-refundable. Credit will be given if an error materially affects the meaning of the ad and only for the first incorrect insertion. Ads will only be printed if they are accompanied by both first and last name as well as telephone number. Names and numbers may be subject to verification. All advertising is subject to acceptance by The Daily Campus, which reserves the right to reject any ad copy at its sole discretion. The Daily Campus does not knowingly accept ads of a fraudulent nature.