

April 2, 2020

Morehead State University Community:

While we find ourselves in unique times, the mission and work of our University remains strong and our commitment to raising funds for student scholarships remains one of our highest priorities.

Even during this unique time, good things are happening!

Today, I am pleased to announce that our University has received a new and very generous \$3 million gift from Drs. Ernst and Sara Lane Volgenau to add to our scholarship campaign. The Volgenau Scholarship Endowment fund will provide scholarship support for students seeking to become teachers in our MSUTeach Program. In addition to the scholarship support for students, this will also provide crucial support for expanding our STEM-based teacher graduates into the region and Commonwealth.

To recognize the significance of this gift to support scholarships, we will be naming our College of Education the 'Ernst and Sara Lane Volgenau College of Education'. Likewise, our Spring 2020 College of Education graduates will officially be alumni of the Volgenau College of Education as designated on their diploma.

So that you are familiar with the Volgenau Family, Drs. Ernst and Sara Lane Volgenau of McLean, Virginia, have been visionary leaders in the field of STEM education, business development and philanthropy. Sara Lane Volgenau is a 1957 graduate of MSU with a degree in elementary education and Ernst Volgenau graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy and later earned a Ph.D. degree in engineering at UCLA. During his full career in the United States Air Force, Ernst Volgenau worked on research and development for satellite and other space projects. In 1978, he founded SRA International Inc., an information technology company that was listed on the New York Stock Exchange and named to the Fortune magazine list of Best Companies to work for in America. The Volgenau Family has mentioned to me consistently that they believe improving education and the pipeline of STEM teachers will help the economy of Eastern Kentucky, the Commonwealth, and the entire nation.

This marks our third named academic college, our student scholarship campaign remains strong, and it is my pleasure to relay this to our community as a bright light during this time. We will be transitioning the College into their new name this spring, with a formal dedication ceremony planned for the fall semester.

On behalf of our entire University community, we would like to thank the Volgenau Family for their generosity, vision, and support of our students.

Jay Morgan,
President