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STETSON UNIVERSITY

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Stetson University Receives \$18M Gift for Science, Health Education

Hyatt and Cici Brown donate largest single gift in Stetson's 135-year history

DELAND, Florida, April 9, 2018 – Stetson University President Wendy B. Libby, Ph.D., announced today the largest single gift in the university's 135-year history as part of the "Beyond Success – Significance" comprehensive fundraising campaign.

"With this gift, the university's great friends, supporters, and members of our Board of Trustees – Hyatt and Cici Brown – have provided \$18 million for the continuing growth and excellence of Stetson science education and research," said Libby. "Their generosity will enable Stetson to meet the increasing demand for science and health graduates in high paying jobs, enhance faculty and student research capabilities, and contribute to the economic growth and high quality of life in Central Florida."

Hyatt Brown, board chair of Brown & Brown Inc., a Daytona Beach-based corporation, and his wife Cici Brown are well known in Florida for their civic philanthropy. Just three years ago, in February 2015, the Browns celebrated the opening of the Cici and Hyatt Brown Museum of Art in Daytona Beach housing more than 2,600 of their paintings of Florida-based art. In 2014, Brown campaign support led to the creation of the Brown Center for Faculty Innovation and Excellence at Stetson.

Now the Browns have turned their attention to science and to West Volusia.

The Brown gift will be used for the expansion and overall development of the awareness, visibility and stature of Stetson's science programs.

"The Browns' transformational gift to Stetson creates pathways to expansion and innovation in the sciences that we have sensed but are not yet visible to us," said Noel Painter, Ph.D., provost and executive vice president. "We will be actively working with faculty, facility and professional experts to make this investment in Stetson powerful for our community."

Hyatt Brown called their contribution “an investment,” not a gift. It will help Stetson continue to be one of the leading economic engines of West Volusia, creating jobs through the construction of a new building and in attracting the better-paying jobs that come with an educated workforce.

“It’s really a pleasure for Cici and I to be involved and to be able to participate and be proud of what is happening at Stetson, and so we don’t view this as a contribution. We view this as an investment in the future,” he said.

Hyatt Brown has been a member of the Stetson University Board of Trustees since 1981 and is currently chair of the board’s finance committee. Cici Brown has been on the board since 1999 and spent 13 years on the College of Arts and Sciences’ Board of Advisors. She chaired the Board of Trustees’ facilities committee during Stetson’s previous fundraising campaign for Sage Hall, which was expanded in 2009 in large part due to the Browns’ leadership.

“Sciences and health are an area that Hyatt and I have really become focused on for a number of reasons,” Cici Brown said at Monday’s announcement, adding that Stetson can prepare students for careers in science and healthcare, especially as the state continues to experience explosive population growth. “We want to be ready. We think Stetson is in an incredible position to make this happen.”

“Yes, this gift is about a great opportunity to provide more space, and a new facility for students and faculty who work and learn in Sage Hall, but it’s much more than that. Together, it represents a new opportunity for the university.” said Joe Cooper, chair of the Stetson University Board of Trustees.

Since the launch of Stetson’s “Beyond Success – Significance” comprehensive campaign, gifts and pledges received have totaled approximately \$189 million heading toward an overall goal of \$200 million. Stetson has raised \$70 million for students and scholarships; another \$26 million toward academic support and faculty research and development; \$6 million for general operating purposes; and now nearly \$38 million toward new facilities including this new expansion of science and health, the Sandra Stetson Aquatic Center currently under construction, the Marshall and Vera Lea Rinker Welcome Center and the ongoing modernization and expansion of the Carlton Union Building student center, which has a January 2019 completion date.

About Stetson University

Founded in 1883, [Stetson University](#) is the oldest private university in Central Florida, providing a transforming education in the liberal arts tradition. Stetson stresses academic excellence and community-engaged learning, and consistently earns high marks in national rankings. Stetson encourages its students to go beyond success to significance in their lives, the lives of others and their communities. [Stay connected](#) with Stetson on social media.