



A special announcement from President Samhat



Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Richardson '59 with Richardson Scholars at the Topping Out Celebration of the Jerry Richardson Indoor Stadium. Richardson Scholars from left: Hawkins Shepard '20, Matt Edwards '17, Katie Beuerlein '18 and Omar Elmore '19.

Dear Wofford family,

It is with great honor and celebration that I announce a \$150 million gift to the college's endowment from Jerry Richardson '59. This brings his "For Wofford" campaign total to \$257.3 million! Mr. Richardson signed the documents earlier today in his Charlotte, N.C., office.

Mr. Richardson's commitment to the liberal arts and our college — students, staff, faculty and alumni — has always been a constant. This most recent gift will ensure that students with unlimited potential are no longer limited by resources.

Please read the news release below and join me in thanking him for his decades of generosity, vision and leadership!

With boundless gratitude,

Dr. Nayef H. Samhat
President

Richardson gives record \$150 million to Wofford College Endowment

Jerome J. Richardson, founding owner of The Carolina Panthers and long-time business leader in the Carolinas, has given \$150 million to Wofford College, his alma mater. The gift — the largest in the college's history — is designated for the endowment with a focus on need-based scholarships and experiences for Wofford students.

With this gift, Richardson's contributions to Wofford exceed \$262.6 million, among the largest individual commitments ever to a U.S. college or university. The \$257.3 million he has given since 2014 as part of the current "For Wofford" campaign is the largest single campaign gift made to a national liberal arts college.

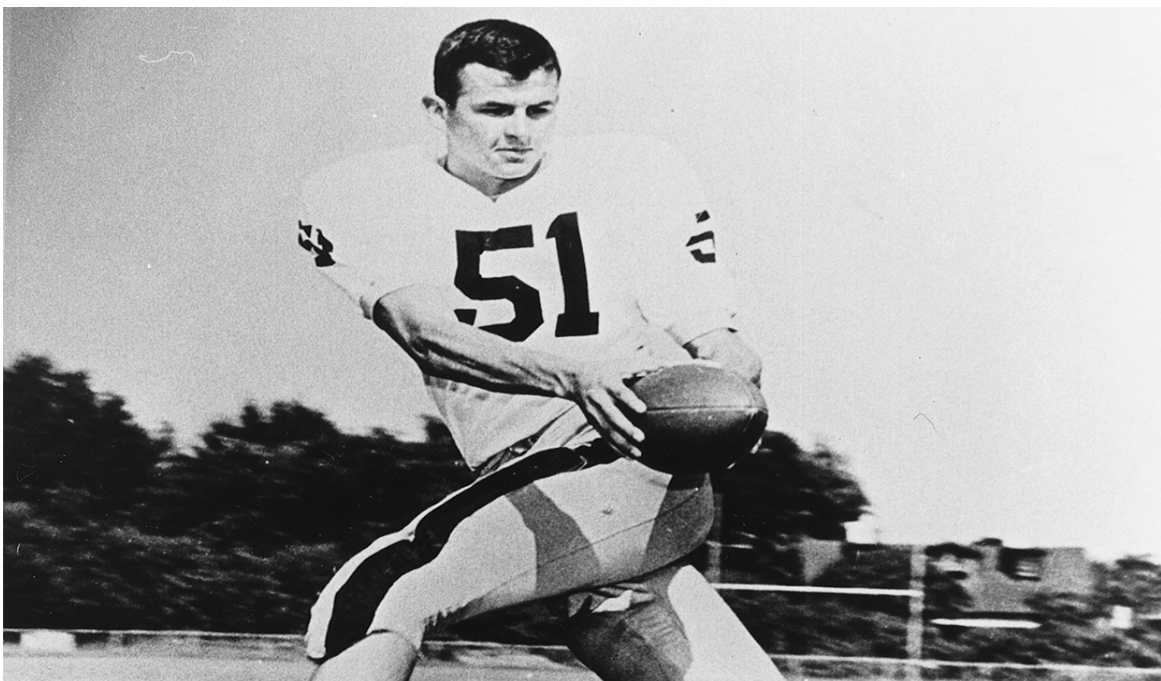
"Mr. Richardson's loyalty to Wofford College and his commitment to the student experience have been a constant since he came to Spartanburg from Fayetteville, N.C., on a modest football scholarship in 1954," said Wofford President Nayef Samhat. "After he graduated, he gave even when he had very little to give, and throughout his life's journey, he has remembered his alma mater without fail. This gift is Mr. Richardson once again changing the game for Wofford College students, and we are forever grateful for his love of our college and the countless ways this gift will impact our students, our community and ultimately our world."

The \$150 million endowment gift will focus on four areas:

- Need-based financial aid that will affect hundreds of students each year.
- Off-campus U.S and global study opportunities, student and faculty research, internships and entrepreneurial learning opportunities.
- An initiative to transition all of the college's support staff to a minimum wage of \$15 per hour.
- A special fund for the maintenance, repair and improvement of campus buildings.

[Read the entire news release.](#)

The life of Jerry Richardson



Jerry Richardson participated in an interview with the college's alumni magazine, Wofford Today, in 2017. He discussed his humble beginnings and major influencers in his life, including Wofford faculty. **Read the story.**

No. 51



Jerry Richardson's No. 51 football jersey was retired at Wofford in 2011. The above video documents his relationship with the college, which began in the 1950s as a student-athlete and captures his success as a businessman and NFL team owner.

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