



**YOUR LEGACY PUTS WIDENER  
STUDENTS ON THE**

# **INSIDE TRACK**

Planned giving at



Widener University



# PLANNED GIFTS

## A GUIDE FOR DONORS

**Strategic financial planning for your philanthropic goals**

### THE VALUE OF PLANNED GIVING

A planned gift to Widener University can utilize assets you have accumulated to provide both financial flexibility and tax benefits to you, while preserving your own legacy at Widener. Most importantly, planned gifts have a transformative impact on Widener students, our faculty, and our mission, by providing financial support to programs and initiatives that matter to you. By allocating your gift through a will, retirement fund, or another device, you can make a meaningful, lasting contribution to Widener—and meet your own financial and charitable goals.

Your planned gift can provide for your family and protect your assets, generate immediate and deferred tax advantages, and in some cases turn non-income-generating assets into those which provide you a measurable return.

Donors who give to Widener through a planned gift are recognized as members of the Widener Legacy Society. If those gifts are completed during your lifetime, you may also be eligible for recognition as a member of one of our lifetime giving societies.

### BEQUESTS

The simplest way to make a gift to Widener is to name the university in your will or estate plan. These vehicles allow you to designate gifts to the university that support the areas at Widener that matters most to you, without altering your current lifestyle or budget. You can name Widener as a recipient of a fixed dollar amount, a percentage, or a remainder of your estate. For gifts above a certain level, you can create a named endowment fund which supports a dedicated scholarship, professorship, academic area, athletic team, or the general university endowment here at Widener.

Because these gifts are part of your estate, you can make changes as your own interests change, often with nothing more complicated than a consultation with your attorney or financial planner, or by revising the beneficiaries of your retirement plans.

*Widener University cannot provide specific tax advice or guarantee tax savings. In all cases, we strongly recommend you speak with an attorney or your financial professional.*

## ■ ANNUITIES

A charitable gift annuity is a simple contract between you and Widener University. In exchange for your irrevocable gift of cash, publicly-traded appreciated securities, or other assets, Widener University agrees to pay one or two annuitants you name a fixed sum each year for life. When the last named annuitant passes, the annuity's remaining principal passes to the university to support whatever designation you identify when you make your initial gift.

The older your designated annuitants are at the time of the first payment, the greater the fixed income Widener University can agree to pay. This may make annuities especially attractive for those 70 or older.

Payments may be made to the annuitants annually, semiannually, or quarterly. In addition to the stream of fixed payments made for life, the gift will also generate an immediate charitable income-tax deduction. In most cases, part of each payment is tax-free, increasing each payment's after-tax value.

The minimum gift to establish an annuity is \$25,000 and certainly can be a larger amount. You may create multiple annuities during the course of your life, and defer some or all to maximize income later. Because annuities are so personal and specialized, Widener recommends a discussion with a financial planning professional in addition to members of our Advancement and Finance staff. This team approach will ensure that your gift maximizes impact for both you and Widener.

## ■ RETIREMENT ACCOUNTS

If you are 70 years and 6 months or older (or if you turn 72 after December 31, 2019), you can make gifts to Widener University directly from your Traditional IRA in the form of a Qualified Charitable Distribution, and count it towards your Required Minimum Distribution – up to \$100,000, or \$200,000 per couple. These gifts can be used to fund any program or initiative at Widener, including endowed or annual scholarships, professorships, campus buildings and spaces, or the Widener Fund. Depending on the value of your IRA, these Qualified Charitable Distributions may satisfy all or part of your Required Minimum Distribution.

Gifts made to charity from an IRA count towards a donor's required minimum distribution but are not counted as taxable income because they do not ever pass through your hands directly.

## ■ BENEFICIARY DISTRIBUTIONS

Donors may choose to name Widener as a beneficiary of a retirement fund, such as a 401(k), 403(b), IRA, Roth IRA, or life insurance policy. These accounts may be subject to taxation if a beneficiary is not identified and they pass to your estate instead, and the SECURE Act of 2019 made the tax consequences for younger beneficiaries more costly. By identifying Widener as a beneficiary of either a fixed amount or a percentage through a Beneficiary Designation, you can bypass probate, provide an important and powerful gift to Widener, and protect your assets with this tax-wise giving opportunity in your estate plan.

To make this gift, simply contact your retirement fund administrator and ask for a beneficiary form, and fax a copy to Widener University along with the Widener planned gift intention form.

## ■ QUESTIONS?

For questions, suggested language, or a sample letter to a retirement plan advisor, contact Brian Lewis at 610-499-4113, email [balewis1@widener.edu](mailto:balewis1@widener.edu), or visit [give.widener.edu](http://give.widener.edu).



The health of Widener University depends on the foresight and generosity of donors – alumni, parents, and friends – who use the lives they have created to help our next generation create their own.

Gifts during your lifetime from retirement funds, assets that could be leveraged to create an income for you and your loved ones, gifts from estates and beneficiary designations, and gifts of real property can all be used to strengthen Widener today and for all the tomorrows after.

The future of Widener University is being created today, and we invite you to be part of it.

*For more information, visit us at [give.widener.edu](https://give.widener.edu).*



# Widener University

Office of Development and Alumni Engagement

