Sweet Briar College Receives $10 Million in Transformational Gifts and 101 Acres of Land

Sweet Briar receives $10 million in transformational gifts and 101 acres of land to strengthen campus infrastructure and future priorities.



Three gifts by Sweet Briar alumnae to make an impact on campus.

SWEET BRIAR, VA, UNITED STATES, September 7, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Sweet Briar recently received commitments from two alumnae to support the College's greatest needs, one of whom wishes to remain anonymous. Both donors made these gifts to support the College's operational needs, current priorities, and special initiatives.

One such special initiative is the Campus Electrical Distribution Upgrade (CEDU) project, which provides much-needed updates to Sweet Briar's electrical infrastructure. Allison "Allie" Stemmons Simon '63 has committed an additional $6 million to that project. This completes Phases I and II of the project, which include a new switchgear building and equipment, and serves to upgrade the electrical infrastructure on campus. With the completion of this upgrade, other campus buildings can now be rehabilitated and restored.

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>
> *President Mary Pope M. Hutson '83*

Allie is no stranger to the importance of philanthropy at Sweet Briar. She was also on the Where Women Lead campaign cabinet, was a long-time class leader and reunion gifts committee member for the Class of 1963, served on Sweet Briar's Board of Directors twice, and was named an Emerita Trustee in 2022. She also received the College's Outstanding Alumna Award in 1999. Allie has been a dedicated and staunch advocate for Sweet Briar College.

With the upgrades to Sweet Briar's electrical infrastructure, the College can continue to steward its historic natural and built environment through these priorities and initiatives. As previously reported in The Briar Wire and Sweet Briar Alumnae Magazine, two top priorities are the renovations of Guion Science Center and Gray Hall. Guion needs modernization and upgrades, including laboratory configurations, furnishings, and equipment. Gray Hall, envisioned and constructed as a residence hall, was transformed into administrative spaces and classrooms in the early 2000s. Now, in keeping with its original purpose and to properly steward Sweet Briar's buildings in its National Register Historic District, Gray will return to housing students during the school year and to providing accommodations for Reunion, camps, and retreats in the summer.



Sweet Briar College, Sweet Briar, VA.

An anonymous alumna has committed an additional $4 million undesignated gift to the College, which will address Sweet Briar's ongoing needs and priorities as outlined in its Strategic Plan.

Sweet Briar also recently received a gift of 101 acres of land contiguous with the College's main campus, which is currently an active farm. Sweet Briar plans to continue the agricultural use of this land, where cattle graze, in support of the agricultural legacy of Amherst County. This gift was given by another alumna who wishes to remain anonymous.

"We are exceedingly grateful to Allie and our anonymous donors," said President Mary Pope M. Hutson. "These commitments make a tremendous difference to current and future Sweet Briar students, and the gift of land is a unique opportunity to steward Sweet Briar's land through a valued partnership and investments in our local agriculture economy."

There is no greater demonstration of dedication to and confidence in Sweet Briar than making a gift to the College, especially one to support these special initiatives and operational needs as we continue to strengthen Sweet Briar. These and other recent commitments, along with the work to meet capital needs, keep Sweet Briar relevant and resilient, helping to secure its future.

These transformational gifts represent more than an investment in buildings, infrastructure, and land. They are an investment in the students who will call Sweet Briar home for generations to come. Modernized academic spaces, renewed student housing, strengthened infrastructure, and the continued stewardship of Sweet Briar's extraordinary campus create an environment where

women can learn, live, discover, and lead. For prospective students and families, this level of investment demonstrates confidence in Sweet Briar's future and its commitment to providing an exceptional residential college experience. Discover what it means to be part of a Category of One at sbc.edu/admissions or contact admissions@sbc.edu.

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