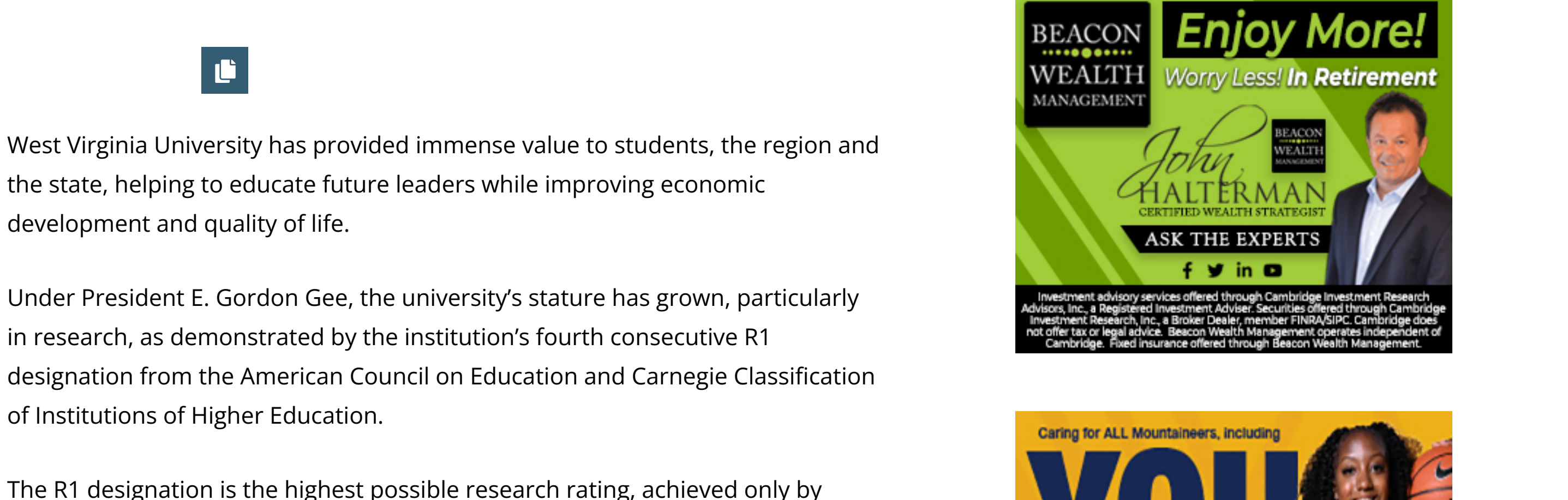


WVU's R1 research status reinforces role as world-class institution

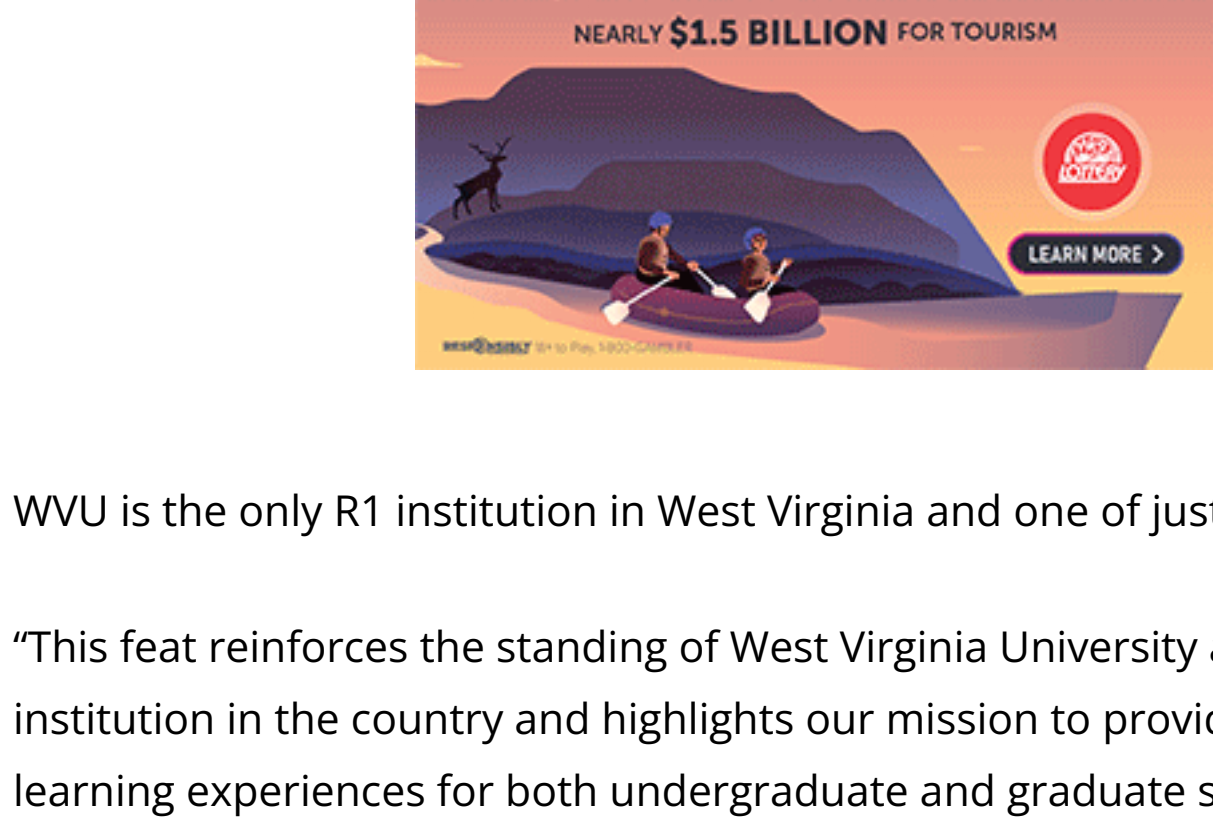
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West Virginia University has provided immense value to students, the region and the state, helping to educate future leaders while improving economic development and quality of life.

Under President E. Gordon Gee, the university's stature has grown, particularly in research, as demonstrated by the institution's fourth consecutive R1 designation from the American Council on Education and Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education.

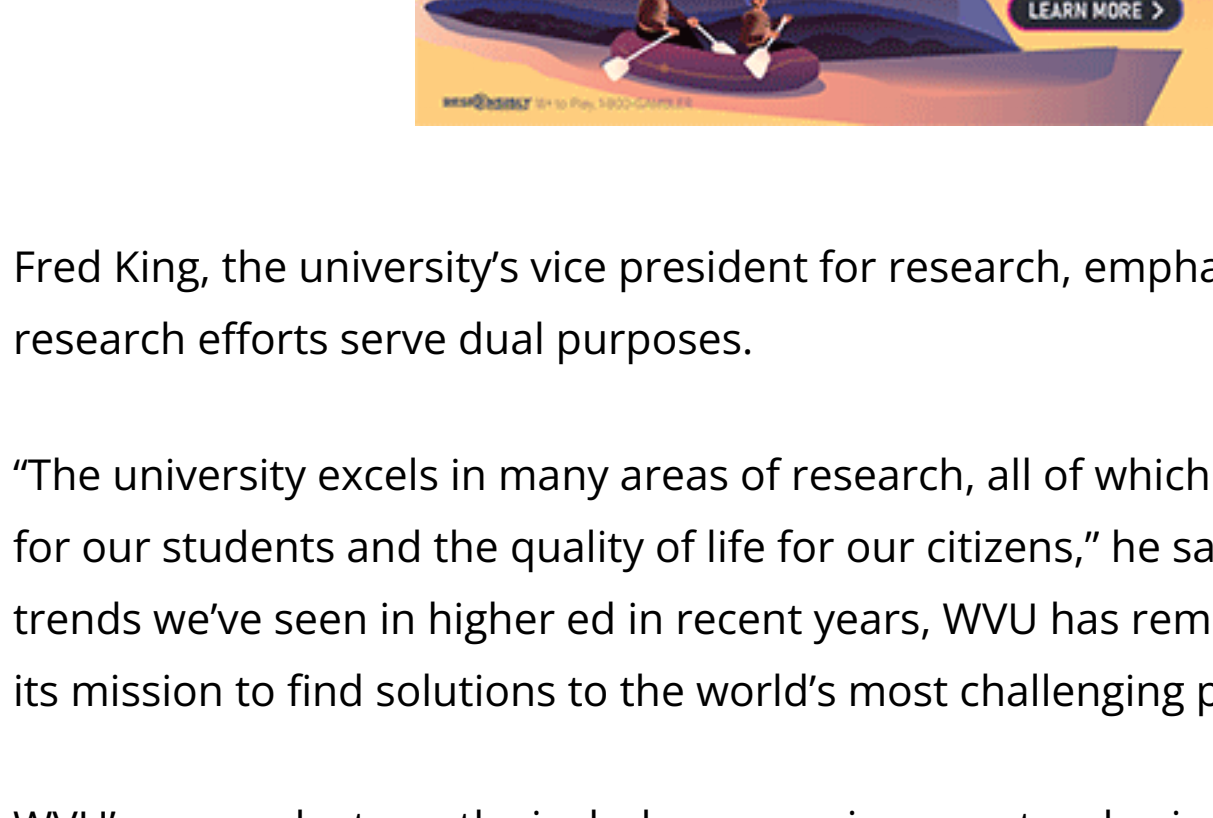
The R1 designation is the highest possible research rating, achieved only by institutions that spend at least \$50 million annually on research while awarding a minimum of 70 doctoral degrees. WVU far exceeds those benchmarks, awarding 200 doctoral degrees and spending more than \$246 million on research in 2023, the year used to determine the university's status.



WVU is the only R1 institution in West Virginia and one of just 187 in the country.

"This feat reinforces the standing of West Virginia University as a top research institution in the country and highlights our mission to provide hands-on learning experiences for both undergraduate and graduate students, which is very unique in the higher ed world," Gee said.

"It also amplifies our purpose to serve not only West Virginia, but those beyond our borders in confronting the world's most pressing challenges," he said.



Fred King, the university's vice president for research, emphasized that WVU's research efforts serve dual purposes.

"The university excels in many areas of research, all of which improve learning for our students and the quality of life for our citizens," he said. "Despite the trends we've seen in higher ed in recent years, WVU has remained steadfast in its mission to find solutions to the world's most challenging problems."

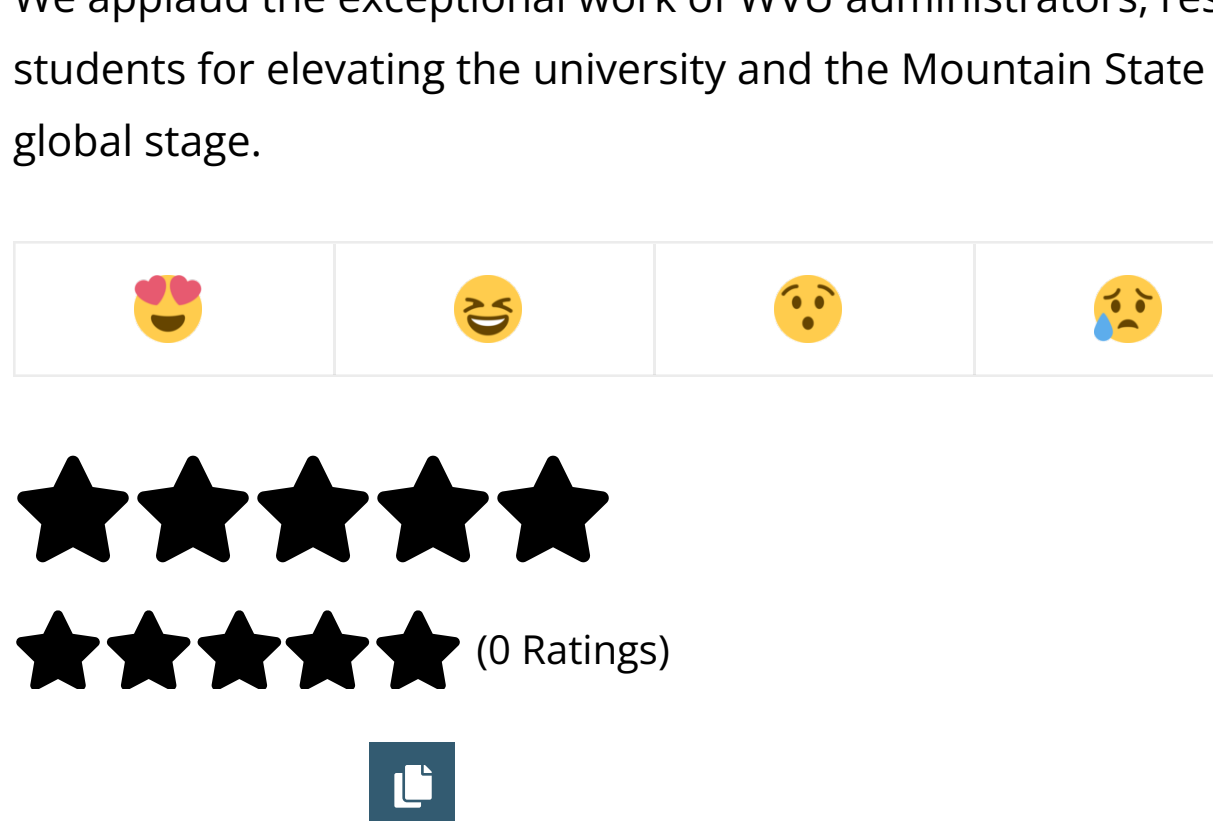
WVU's research strengths include neuroscience, astrophysics, robotics, energy and forensic science.



"The success of our university in research is a reflection of the hard work of our faculty, postdoctoral fellows and students — both graduate and undergraduate," King added. "Our undergraduate students benefit from hands-on experiences and opportunities that cannot be found at most universities. They can engage in research on the cutting edge of their discipline and learn from leaders — an opportunity uniquely afforded by R1 universities like WVU."

WVU's research reputation continues to grow, leading the university to secure a record \$275 million in external funding in 2024. That represents an 82% increase over the past five years.

The R1 designation affirms the academic community's recognition of WVU's outstanding research work. The university's fundraising success further reflects that public and private partners see tangible results from their investment.



We applaud the exceptional work of WVU administrators, researchers and students for elevating the university and the Mountain State on the national and global stage.

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★★★★★
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