



BUILDING UP

2020–2021 Annual Report



*“In a world where access to education can make a world of difference, it’s critical to fund organizations like the Mitchell Institute, who **help propel** so many **young people to success.**”*

— HILARY RAPKIN, CHIEF LEGAL OFFICER, WEX

A STRONG FOUNDATION

The Mitchell Institute strengthens Maine communities by providing a path to success in college and beyond for Maine students. We reach every corner of the state by selecting a Mitchell Scholar from each public high school in Maine. Mitchell Scholars are given a four-year, \$10,000 scholarship and invited to participate in a wide array of personal, academic, and career support programming.

This impact we have is only possible through the generosity of our individual, foundation and corporate donors. We are deeply grateful to all our wonderful donors for their support. Together we are unlocking the potential of these students so that they can contribute to the vitality of Maine communities.

HOW WE BUILD

Knowing that leadership, integrity, and confidence play a huge role in successful lives professionally and personally, we weave those themes into our programming. We offer programs that provide support, guidance, and mentoring — both during and after college — all meant to increase Scholars’ chances of attaining a degree and finding meaningful employment in Maine.

A VERY REAL ROI

We are deeply invested in the success of Mitchell Scholars, and our research shows that our programs help them graduate college at a higher rate than their peers. Furthermore, Scholars and Alumni say that the combination of financial and personal support makes a world of difference for them and their families.

OUR MISSION

The mission of the Mitchell Institute is to increase the likelihood that young people from every community in Maine will aspire to, pursue, and achieve a college education.

3,156

In the 25 years that the Mitchell Institute has been working to build the best Maine, 3,156 Mitchell Scholars have benefited from our programs.

71%

More than two-thirds of Mitchell Scholars come from families making less than the state median income.

\$19.5M

The Mitchell Institute has awarded more than \$19,500,000 in scholarship, fellowship, and emergency funds since our inception.



SCHOLAR SPOTLIGHT

LUIS ROVAYO

Edward Little High School, 2011
Worcester Polytechnic Institute, 2015

"I really believe in the values and mission of the Mitchell Institute and want to contribute to all the great work that they've accomplished in our great state."

Six years after graduation, Luis Rovayo sees the crucial impact of the Mitchell Institute in allowing him to afford a college education and access a network of resources. Now finding ways to give back and stay connected, Luis serves as a member of the Alumni Council and makes monthly donations to the Institute. Luis finds enjoyment helping others through his current role as a consultant for Boston Industrial Consulting, and is proud to represent Maine and the Mitchell Institute beyond the state.

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"The Mitchell Institute is full of people that are willing to help you achieve your academic dreams."

— EVAN MERCHANT, 2019 MITCHELL SCHOLAR

*"I had to come home early from my study abroad in Morocco due to COVID-19, but rather than be sad about my trip getting cut short, I'm focusing on how **grateful** I am for the opportunity in the first place and the **bonds** I have made with the group which in this situation made us **even stronger**."*

— HUNTER ST. PIERRE,
2018 MITCHELL SCHOLAR

PROGRAMS

PROGRAMMING IN 2020: A LESSON IN PERSEVERANCE

Our research has shown that in addition to financial assistance, personal support dramatically increases Scholars' chances of attaining a degree and finding future personal and professional success. In response, we offer skill-building, networking, and leadership development opportunities to Mitchell Scholars, both during and after college. While many of our programs looked different over the past year because of the pandemic, Mitchell Scholars are still enthusiastic. They are, unsurprisingly, engaged, flexible, and ready to take on the challenges this time presents.

PROGRAMS

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Through weekend retreats and day-long events, the Mitchell Institute convenes Scholars, Alumni, and business and community leaders for networking, training, and team-building activities. These interactions build an enduring community, establish connections, and equip Scholars with the tools required for success during and after college. The connections start the summer before new Scholars enter college, with a Welcome Celebration that serves as an introduction to all the programs and benefits of being a Mitchell Scholar. Traditionally held as a brunch on the UMaine campus, the event was held virtually in 2020. Another highlight of the year is MILE I (Mitchell Institute Leadership Experience), held on a fall weekend in Millinocket. In 2020, the event was held virtually, and featured sessions on leadership and diversity, community service and civic engagement, and self-care and mental health.

"It was really easy to lose myself and my motivation during this past year, but by seeing everyone once again [at MILE I], it was a great refresher knowing I am not the only one struggling and everyone should just focus on what they can do now."

— CAREY LEE, 2018 MITCHELL SCHOLAR

SCHOLAR SPOTLIGHT

PAIGE THIBODEAU

Penobscot Valley High School, 2018
University of Maine at Augusta, 2022

"I have so many friends and colleagues because of the Mitchell Institute, but more importantly they treat me like a family! Being a Mitchell Scholar is an honor, and an opportunity to grow your connections and make a brighter future for yourself."


For Paige Thibodeau, a junior at the University of Maine at Augusta, the Mitchell Scholarship allowed her to pursue her dream of becoming a veterinarian close to home. Though the restrictions of the pandemic have made the hands-on nature of her degree challenging, she continues to take advantage of as many opportunities as possible, staying connected to classmates virtually, attending Mitchell Institute events online, and working as an admissions ambassador, as well as at a local vet clinic.



2020 SCHOLARS

The Mitchell Institute is pleased to select Mitchell Scholars from each of the public high schools across Maine, from Traip Academy in Kittery to Madawaska High on the Canadian border.

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Tagan Vance
Trie Yale

STEPHEN B. CENTER SCHOLARS



Every year, Unum supports five Stephen B. Center Diversity Leadership Scholars. These scholarships honor Mr. Center, who championed diversity in the workplace and the community, always inspiring others to value differences and eliminate discrimination.

ALFOND SCHOLARS



To recognize the extraordinary investment the Harold Alfond Foundation has made in the Mitchell Institute, each year sixteen Scholars, the most promising from each county, are named Alfond Scholars.

“This isn’t just a scholarship, it’s a community.”

— OLIVIA PRIDE, 2020 MITCHELL SCHOLAR



SCHOLAR SPOTLIGHT

CATHERINE BIEGEL

Bonny Eagle High School, 2017
Colby College, 2021

"Being part of the Mitchell Institute family has made me feel supported, financially but also emotionally, every step of the way during my college career. I know that I have a whole community behind me, encouraging me, celebrating my successes with me, and inspiring me."

Initially unsure what to study, Cat Biegel found herself continually drawn to STEM courses. Now a senior in Biochemistry, Cat aims to attend medical school to pursue a career in women's health. With the support of her Mitchell Institute family, she has thrived in college, studying abroad in France, volunteering as an EMT for Colby's Emergency Response club, and taking advantage of networking and professional development opportunities, including recently connecting with Mitchell Alumni in healthcare.

PROGRAMS

CAREER AND PERSONAL SUPPORT

The Mitchell Institute strives to establish a unique collaboration with Scholars at every step of their undergraduate and post-college life. One way we accomplish this is by introducing Scholars and Alumni to professionals in the same field—this can lead to career and mentoring opportunities. We also offer "no-agenda coffee chats" to gauge what specific support would be helpful to the Scholar. Before the pandemic hit, we were able to squeeze in a job shadowing and networking day at the offices of our partner WEX. In Spring 2021, our Career Development Day became an online series, bringing together over 50 Maine employers and more than 80 Mitchell Scholars, with the theme of "You Can Get There From Here."

ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL RESOURCES

Fellowship Awards. These awards of up to \$1,500 offer support to eligible Scholars and Alumni in their pursuit of career-related internships, professional certifications, study abroad, and service projects. These investments empower Scholars to pursue professional development opportunities regardless of financial hurdles.

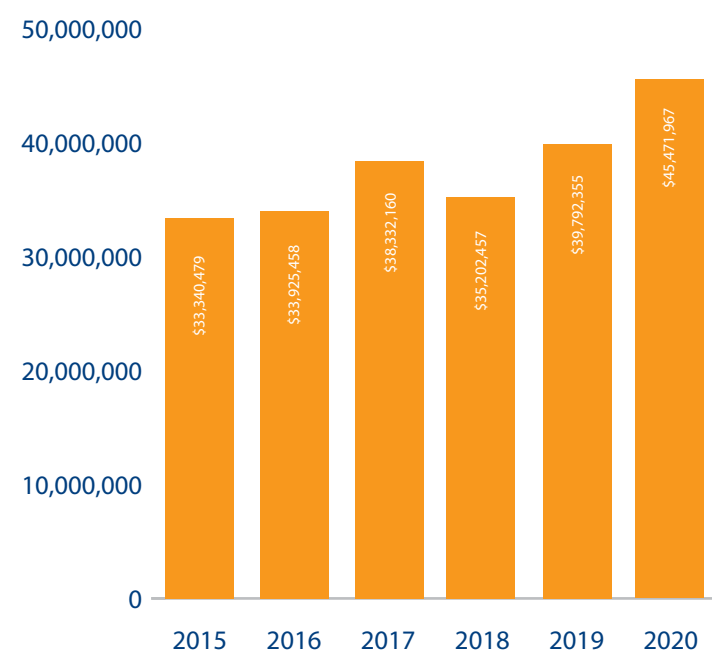
Contingency Funds. There are two other funds available to all Mitchell Scholars to help overcome financial hurdles that may potentially prevent college completion. The SOS (Supporting Our Scholars) Fund provides grants to Scholars facing unforeseen financial crises such as health emergencies or unexpected changes in living circumstances. Another fund, introduced in 2020, is available for ongoing expenses for particularly financially vulnerable Scholars. That fund, called the SPARC (Subsidy Providing Assistance with Recurring Costs) Fund can help with things like food insecurity, course materials, and ongoing transportation costs. If left unfunded, these are the types of necessary expenses that could derail a Scholar's ability to remain in college.

"This experience gave me hope, motivation, and inspiration that the world is still a good place and that there are plenty of good people in it."

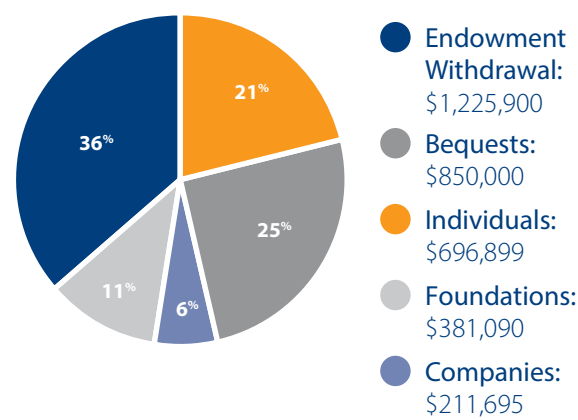
— IRENE NEAL, 2017 MITCHELL SCHOLAR

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

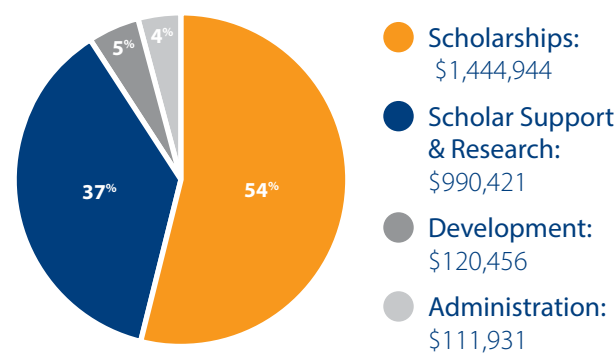
GROWTH OF ENDOWMENTS 2015-2020



2020 REVENUE BY SOURCE



2020 EXPENSES



OUR 2020 DONORS

Donor listing includes cash and securities received between January 1, 2020, and December 31, 2020. Every effort has been made to ensure this report is accurate. Please call the Mitchell Institute with any omissions or corrections and accept our sincere apologies.

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— Doug Herling, President & CEO Central Maine Power

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DONOR SPOTLIGHT

CHRISTINE WILLIAMS

"I'm impressed by how successful Mitchell Scholars have been, especially when many have had multiple challenges to overcome in order to succeed in college."

Christine "Chris" Williams has made more donations to the Mitchell Institute than anyone else. That's because she has been making monthly, automatic gifts since 2011. As a member of Senator Mitchell's Senate staff in DC, she's been involved from the organization's conception.

"I don't feel like I could have done what I did in my career without Senator Mitchell, and supporting Mitchell Scholars is a way of repaying his support of me," she says. Chris has also generously included the Mitchell Institute in her will.



THE MARY MITCHELL LEGACY SOCIETY

To honor the legacy of Mintaha "Mary" Mitchell, mother of Senator George J. Mitchell, The Mary Mitchell Legacy Society's members are comprised of those who have committed to including the Mitchell Institute in their wills or trusts.

To find out how you can join, please contact Sarah Short, Development Director, at 207.358.7733.

SOCIETY MEMBERS INCLUDE:

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Macky Bennett*
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Collette Howe

Frank and Ellie Langlois*
Frank and Claire Leonard*
Peter and Kathleen Leslie Charles
and Judy Micoleau
Bill Mitchell
Carol Mitchell
George Mitchell
Stephen E. and Catherine Pappas*
Lawrence Ralston*
Heather Ries
Lauren Segal and Rich Grigos
Jim and Lynn Shaffer
Virginia Swain
Christine Williams

*deceased

*"Receiving the Mitchell Scholarship said to me
'You matter to Maine, and Maine supports you.'"*

— ELLEN SABINA, 2005 MITCHELL SCHOLAR

2020 PIONEER SCHOLARS

The Pioneer Scholar program, a partnership between generous supporters and the Mitchell Institute, provides the opportunity to recognize specific Mitchell Scholars and Alumni who, through their contributions to school and community and their demonstration of certain qualities — as students and as citizens — stand out for acknowledgement.

HAROLD ALFOND PIONEER SCHOLAR recognizes the Mitchell Scholar from Dexter Regional High School
CHELSIE NELSON
Dexter Regional High School 2020
Iowa Wesleyan University 2024

HAROLD ALFOND PIONEER SCHOLAR recognizes the Mitchell Scholar from Messalonskee High School
SAMI BENAYAD
Messalonskee High School 2020
Boston College 2024

EDWARD AND BARBARA ATKINS PIONEER SCHOLAR recognizes a Mitchell Scholar attending the University of Maine who has an interest in marketing and communications, with an emphasis on graphic arts and design
SHELBY LEWIS
Katahdin Middle/High School 2020
University of Maine 2024

AVANGRID FOUNDATION AND CENTRAL MAINE POWER PIONEER SCHOLAR recognizes a Mitchell Scholar pursuing a degree in science, technology, engineering, or math
JARRETT GULDEN
Lincoln Academy 2020
Worcester Polytechnic Institute 2024

BATH IRON WORKS | BUZZ FITZGERALD PIONEER SCHOLAR recognizes a Mitchell Scholar who is a child or grandchild of a BIW employee, and who embodies the characteristics of leadership and compassion for which Buzz Fitzgerald was known
EMILY MORGAN
Hermon High School 2020
Husson University 2024

MORTON K. AND JANE BLAUSTEIN PIONEER SCHOLAR recognizes a first-generation college student and a student from a recently immigrated family
JEAN-DANIEL LIWANGA
Baxter Academy for Technology and Science 2020
University of Southern Maine 2024

JACK AND CHARLIE CANNING PIONEER SCHOLAR recognizes a Mitchell Scholar from the greater Augusta area who has demonstrated academic growth, leadership, and enthusiasm for the community
CONNOR FIRTH
Maranacook Community High School 2018
University of Maine 2022

CASELLA PIONEER SCHOLAR recognizes a Mitchell Scholar entering the field of environmental studies
EMMA DESROCHERS
Massabesic High School 2017
Yale University 2021

SAM L. COHEN FOUNDATION PIONEER SCHOLAR recognizes the Mitchell Scholar from Biddeford High School
ANTHONY MARIELLO
Biddeford High School 2020
Bentley University 2024

SAM L. COHEN FOUNDATION PIONEER SCHOLAR recognizes the Mitchell Scholar from Portland High School
HENRY IZERE
Portland High School 2020
University of Maine 2024

SAM L. COHEN FOUNDATION PIONEER SCHOLAR recognizes the Mitchell Scholar from Thornton Academy
MAXAMUS SPAULDING
Thornton Academy 2020
Bucknell University 2024

COYNE FAMILY PIONEER SCHOLAR recognizes the Mitchell Scholar from South Portland High School
GRACE PERRY
South Portland High School 2020
University of Vermont 2024

BOB CREWE FOUNDATION PIONEER SCHOLAR recognizes a Mitchell Scholar who is majoring in the field of Art or Music and/or is a member of the LGBT community, reflecting the Crewe Foundation's support of aspiring artists and LGBT rights
CHEYANNE GOROSHIN
Buckfield Junior-Senior High School 2020
College of the Atlantic 2024

LEON AND LISA GORMAN PIONEER SCHOLAR IN HONOR OF SENATOR GEORGE J. MITCHELL recognizes a Mitchell Scholar who has demonstrated strong qualities of leadership, character, and hard work
LILY MCVETTY
Oceanside High School 2017
Bowdoin College 2021

JOHN AND NELLIE JACKSON PIONEER SCHOLAR recognizes a student attending Maine Maritime Academy who represents personal humility and hard work
BRAD MCKECHNIE JR.
Penobscot Valley High School 2019
Maine Maritime Academy 2023

ANN LAMB PIONEER SCHOLAR recognizes the Mitchell Scholar from Falmouth High School who has demonstrated a love of reading or literacy work, a commitment to environmental preservation or education, and an enthusiasm for community service
JULIA LEE
Falmouth High School 2020
Bowdoin College 2024

SHEPARD LEE PIONEER SCHOLAR recognizes the Mitchell Scholar from Lewiston High School
ABIGAIL DUNDORE
Lewiston High School 2020
Gordon College 2024

GEORGE AND MINTAHA MITCHELL PIONEER SCHOLAR recognizes the Mitchell Scholar from Waterville High School in memory of George and Mintaha Mitchell
REBECCA MAHEU
Waterville High School 2020
University of Maine 2024

SENATOR GEORGE J. MITCHELL PIONEER SCHOLAR is in recognition of leadership, character, and perseverance
DENISE DESROCHERS
Thornton Academy 1999
University of Southern Maine 2003

HEATHER MACLACHLAN MITCHELL PIONEER SCHOLAR recognizes a Mitchell Scholar who has demonstrated an interest and aptitude in literature and writing
KATHERINE BERUBE
Hodgdon Middle/High School 2020
University of Maine at Farmington 2024

JANET FRASER MITCHELL PIONEER SCHOLAR recognizes a Mitchell Scholar at Colby College, with a preference toward those majoring in English literature
CATHERINE BIEGEL
Bonny Eagle High School 2017
Colby College 2021

JOHN AND PRINELLA MITCHELL PIONEER SCHOLAR recognizes a Mitchell Scholar-Athlete who demonstrates the qualities of sportsmanship and leadership in and out of competition
NOAH CARAMIHALIS
York High School 2020
Maine Maritime Academy 2024

PAUL AND YVETTE MITCHELL PIONEER SCHOLAR recognizes a Mitchell Scholar majoring in business who demonstrates the qualities of independent thinking, leadership, and self-motivation necessary to become a successful entrepreneur
CONNOR PARADIS
Noble High School 2017
Seton Hall University 2021

ROBERT E. MITCHELL PIONEER SCHOLAR recognizes a Mitchell Scholar majoring in business or economics, with a demonstrated interest in entering the field of banking or finance upon graduation
RACHEL DRISCOLL
Washburn District High School 2017
Husson University 2021

MITCHELL SENATE STAFF PIONEER SCHOLAR IN MEMORY OF GAYLE CORY recognizes a Mitchell Scholar whose belief in public service, faith in people, and dedication to the greater good are a model to all
MARK LUTTE
Lincoln Academy 1999
Bowdoin College 2003

OTT FAMILY PIONEER SCHOLAR recognizes the Mitchell Scholar from Gorham High School who has demonstrated academic promise and a history of community service
MADISEN SWEATT
Gorham High School 2020
Florida Gulf Coast University 2024

COLLEEN J. QUINT PIONEER SCHOLAR recognizes the Mitchell Scholar who best exemplifies the qualities of leadership and inspiration, which defined Colleen's 13 years of service to the Mitchell Institute
COURTNEY JURSON
Hodgdon Middle/High School 2014
University of Maine 2020

REYNOLDS-KERR FAMILY PIONEER SCHOLAR recognizes a Mitchell Scholar entering the field of engineering, mathematics, or the physical sciences
JACOB PATTERSON
Lawrence High School 2020
University of Maine 2024

REYNOLDS-KERR FAMILY PIONEER SCHOLAR recognizes a Mitchell Scholar entering the field of engineering, mathematics, or the physical sciences
TEREASA SPAULDING
Maine Connections Academy 2020
Cornell University 2024

ROCKEFELLER FAMILY PIONEER SCHOLAR recognizes the Mitchell Scholar from Mount Desert Island High School
BRENNA JONES
Mount Desert Island High School 2020
University of Maine 2024

DONALD ROUX PIONEER SCHOLAR recognizes the Mitchell Scholar from Lewiston High School
MELINA MASSELLI
Lewiston High School 2020
Wheaton College 2024

BILL RYAN PIONEER SCHOLAR recognizes a Mitchell Scholar with financial need and demonstrated commitment to the community who plans to pursue a career in business
MAXWELL WEBSTER
Searsport District High School 2019
Husson University 2022

FRANCES TARR PIONEER SCHOLAR recognizes the Mitchell Scholar from Edward Little High School
EMILY TORRES
Edward Little High School 2020
Thomas College 2024

UNUM PIONEER SCHOLAR recognizes a Mitchell Scholar who has demonstrated a history of leadership and community service
ELLIE GELLERSON
George Stevens Academy 2018
Maine Maritime Academy 2022

PADDY FRANK WALSH PIONEER SCHOLAR recognizes a Mitchell Scholar who has overcome tremendous obstacles to success
BENJAMIN INGALLS
Gray-New Gloucester High School 2020
Southern Maine Community College 2022

WALT DISNEY COMPANY PIONEER SCHOLAR recognizes a Mitchell Scholar who has demonstrated an interest and talent in the arts
LU FARMER
Rangeley Lakes Regional School 2020
School of the Art Institute of Chicago 2024

LIFETIME DONORS

These levels represent cumulative giving to the Mitchell Institute since its inception.

FOUNDERS \$250,000+

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Barbara Atkins
Avangrid Foundation
The Betterment Fund
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David Rockefeller, Sr.*
Joseph Sherman
Virginia Swain
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* deceased

"I've always turned to the Mitchell Institute at professional junctures in my life."

— HANNAH DEANGELIS, 2008 MITCHELL SCHOLAR

PRESIDENT AND CEO

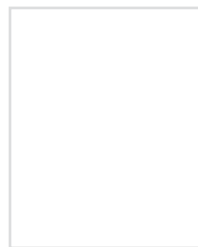
MEG BAXTER

Meg Baxter is retiring from the Mitchell Institute on December 31, 2021. The Board and Staff are tremendously grateful for all she has given the organization over these ten years as President and CEO. She has served admirably and effectively in her position since 2011, a period in which the Mitchell Institute has experienced remarkable growth in its programs, and provided increased scholarship aid to the over 1,300 Maine high school students who became Mitchell Scholars during her tenure. We will miss her steadfast commitment to the mission, and most importantly, her commitment to Scholars themselves.

Meg will leave the Mitchell Institute with a strong foundation financially and programmatically, and an updated strategic framework that will guide our work for years to come. We will continue to be inspired by her as we prepare for the challenges and opportunities ahead, working to unlock the potential of Maine students and the best possible future for Maine.

*Thank you, Meg.
Maine, her students, and all
of us at the Mitchell Institute
are better for the dedication
you have shown.*






Recipient Name
1111 Street Name
City, State 11111

Senator George J. Mitchell, Honorary Chairman


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We would like to thank the photographers who have contributed to this Annual Report. A huge thank you to Hunter Curtis, Nicole Derr, Kyle Dubay, Alexis Erlandson, Kim Lim, James Patefield, Adam Thibodeau, Khanh Vo, and Dennis Welsh.

