

Let's Make Waves



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A Campaign for the Warren Wilson College Aquatic Center

The Warren Wilson College Aquatic Center will unite body, mind and mission for purpose and progress. Sustainably designed, community-focused, inclusive and accessible, the facility will reflect the College's learning-in-action ethos while enhancing wellness, athletic opportunity and regional economic development.

We are halfway toward realizing this vision. On October 1, 2025, the College was awarded \$1.6 million from the Buncombe County Tourism Development Authority to support the expansion and renovations. The College must match this gift by raising an additional \$1.6 million over the next two years to complete the Aquatic Center.

We invite you to create a lasting legacy of athletic excellence, community engagement and shared prosperity—make a gift to support the Warren Wilson College Aquatic Center. Every drop counts.

Jump In! Make a Gift.
warren-wilson.edu/make-waves



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The Impact:

- A home for the WWC NCAA DIII swimming, diving and triathlon teams
- Year-round aquatic recreation and training for the community
- A driver of economic growth for Buncombe County
- Community partnerships for learn-to-swim, water safety and wellness programs
- Enhanced recruitment and visibility for WWC

About the Pool

25 YARD

competition-level pool

6

lanes

1 AND 3

meter diving boards

200

spectators

10,000

square feet

“The symbolic meaning of this project cannot be overstated. After almost 10 years of inactivity, the Aquatic Center’s re-opening is a physical representation of the renewal of the College and builds on the tremendous momentum generated by the entire Warren Wilson community through the *Progressive Promise for All.*”

— President
Damián J. Fernández, Ph.D.



Aquatic Center Goals



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Goal 1: Athletic Excellence

Warren Wilson College is committed to fostering a thriving athletic program that enhances student development and school spirit. The WWC NCAA DIII swim teams and women's triathlon team train off site and cannot host meets on campus. The pool would be a training and injury recovery resource for all WWC athletes.

Goal 2: Wellness and Safety Programs for All

Recognizing the critical importance of water safety and wellness, the Aquatic Center will offer a range of community programs including learn-to-swim, kayak rolling, lap swimming, water aerobics and water therapy. These classes will address vital community needs.

Goal 3: A Catalyst for Regional Economic Growth

The closest indoor competition pool with diving facilities is 160 miles away. The Aquatic Center will serve as a valuable asset to drive economic activity in the area. By attracting out-of-market visitors for regional and national collegiate and high school swim and diving meets, educational programs, and recreational opportunities, the Center will generate increased hotel occupancy, restaurant patronage, and overall tourism revenue.

“I have frequently driven the 15-passenger van to off-campus practices, which adds up to 10 travel hours per week to our practice times. Students at Wilson already have the responsibility of work and academics, and for many who would like to join the team, the higher time commitment is too big an ask.”

— **Elena Wheeler '26, swim team captain, national qualifying athlete in women's triathlon**



The **WWC Women's Triathlon Team**, in only its second year, ranked second overall in NCAA DIII and qualified to compete at Nationals finishing sixth overall among DIII programs.

Make a Splash!

We offer a variety of recognition opportunities for our generous donors, including naming rights for key features like the diving boards, solar panels, Swim Deck Office, locker rooms, and accessibility equipment. Contact us to explore how your gift can be recognized in a meaningful and lasting way.



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Legacy of Christiana Ransom

In the late 1980s, Christiana Ransom, who served as a member of the Board of Trustees for many years, made a gift of \$1.2 million to construct the current Aquatic Center and provide an endowment to support its operation. She and her husband, Woodbury Ransom, were champions of the College. With this project to re-open the Aquatic Center, Warren Wilson honors the Ransoms, their support and legacy of service. The family's wish is to name the pool after a person synonymous with Warren Wilson College—Rodney Lytle '73.

The Rodney Lytle '73 Pool

Rodney Lytle enrolled in Warren Wilson College in 1969, graduated four years later and never left. Over his 52-year career, he has served in many roles, has worked under all 10 Presidents, and has made an impact on the lives of thousands of students and fellow alums. A star basketball player, Lytle met his wife, Sharon '78, at Warren Wilson and their children learned to swim in the College pool. The joy experienced by all those who visit The Rodney Lytle '73 Pool will be a celebration of his life and legacy.



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