

# RowanAdvances

A PUBLICATION OF ROWAN UNIVERSITY'S ADVANCEMENT DIVISION

SUMMER 2022



## Edelman legacy continues to build momentum at Rowan University

They may have graduated in 1980 and 1981, but Ric and Jean Edelman will forever be part of Rowan University— clearing the path for its future as a leader in public higher education.

The University's largest alumni donors, the Edelmans have donated nearly \$40 million to Rowan, including \$25 million to the renamed Jean & Ric Edelman Fossil Park and Museum of Rowan University in Mantua Township, \$10 million to create an endowed scholarship fund to support students in the Ric Edelman College of Communication & Creative Arts (Edelman CCCA) and \$1 million for Rowan's planetarium in Science Hall, which was also renamed in their honor. This past academic year, Rowan broke ground on the region's newest museum, a world-class destination that will explore the richness of South Jersey's ancient past around themes of a more sustainable future as part of the Jean & Ric Edelman Fossil Park of Rowan University.

Ric Edelman said the museum and park will produce life-changing educational experiences. "The look back into the distant past is not merely for intellectual curiosity; it's to remind us of who we are,

where we have the potential to go and who we have the potential to become," he said.

Another venture broke ground this year as funding from the Edelmans' \$10 million gift in 2019 was awarded to the inaugural class of 14 students – incoming freshmen and transfer students from across 10 different CCCA programs who received \$2,500 each toward tuition.

In January, admitted Edelman CCCA students who met the eligibility requirements were invited to apply for the scholarship, and Dean Sanford Tweedie said there could be as many as 40 new recipients in 2022-23.

"Being part of the inaugural class of Edelman Scholars was an honor and privilege," said Carmen Galindo '22. "I felt a sense of pride and responsibility to excel academically and exude student leadership qualities exemplary of an Edelman Scholar. In addition, the program allowed me to continue my education, become the first graduate of the Health and Science Communication program and prepare myself to enter the workforce."

In addition to tuition support, funds are set aside to enable students to pursue professional development opportunities like internships and conferences, invaluable educational experiences preparing them for communication- and creative-based careers.

Rowan University President Ali Houshmand said Ric Edelman, now a Distinguished Lecturer at Rowan, and Jean, a trustee of the University, have built a legacy that will impact students for generations. "We are so grateful to Ric and Jean for their continued generosity to their alma mater,"

Houshmand said. “They show by example that the best investments create not only personal wealth but opportunities to help others too.”

At this year’s Commencement ceremonies, Ric Edelman gifted Rowan graduates his new #1 Amazon bestselling book, “The Truth About Crypto.” The book offers sound, easily accessible advice about blockchain and digital assets, and explains the difference between digital currencies and digital assets. Readers will learn about NFTs, CBDCs, stablecoins, the Metaverse and much more. Most importantly, Edelman shows readers how to avoid scams when investing in digital assets. “Education is the basis for every smart investment strategy,” Edelman said. “By reading “The Truth About Crypto,” investors will gain the knowledge they need to benefit from the greatest investment opportunity since the invention of the internet.” In addition to gifting over 4,000 copies of his book to graduates during Commencement week, Edelman will provide copies of his book to thousands more Rowan students this fall.