Making history doesn’t matter much to Jean and Ric Edelman. Making an impact—a tangible, lasting impact—does. To that end, in October 2016 the Edelmans announced a $25 million pledge to preserve and expand the Rowan University Fossil Park in Mantua Township, N.J. their gift—the second largest in Rowan’s history and the largest ever given by alumni—will help transform STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) education through one-of-a-kind, hands-on discovery and world-class research at the Fossil Park.

“It wasn’t our goal to donate $25 million to the University. Instead, our goal was to determine how much money it would take to create a world-class museum and learning experience at the Fossil Park, and that’s the amount it will take,” continues Ric, who has been ranked the No. 1 Independent Financial Adviser three times by Barron’s. He’s also a #1 New York Times bestselling author, and in August, Forbes ranked him among The Top 10 Wealth Advisers in America.

Ambitious plans for the Fossil Park include a state-of-the-art museum and visitor center, a fossil preparation lab, a nature trail, a paleontology-themed playground and social spaces for events. The park’s extraordinarily popular dig days—during which people of all ages can dig for fossils—will continue.

Purchased by Rowan in January for $1.95 million, the 65-acre tract contains thousands of 65-million-year-old fossils from the Cretaceous Period. The Edelmans’ gift will create a vibrant Fossil Park and educational opportunities of international caliber.