

CREATING FUTURES



Using ancient artifacts and teaching as instruments of self-determination.

Turn to pages 8–9 to see how Normandale is using a special grant to support innovation in anthropology education.



NORMANDALE
COMMUNITY COLLEGE FOUNDATION



MINNESOTA STATE



Greetings,

As we near the end of this profoundly challenging year, I am pleased to share that the students, faculty and staff of Normandale Community College have kept a strong and steady focus on the brighter futures we are working to create.

This fall, we embarked on three ambitious goals together: eliminate race-based gaps in key educational outcomes by 2025 (five years ahead of Minnesota State's "Equity 2030" vision), achieve a completion rate of 50% or better for degree-seeking students by 2030, and foster a pervasive institutional culture that is culturally competent and service oriented.

We have also announced that Normandale will develop an exciting new program to recruit and prepare Black men to become K–12 teachers. The social impact and myriad positive "ripple effects" of diversifying our K–12 teaching corps are well documented by social science and proof that **solutions to some of our country's most pressing challenges are within our reach.**

Under the leadership of Vice President of Advancement Andrea Specht and a committed board of directors and staff, the Normandale Community College Foundation is poised to advance this program and the goals I shared above through the power of philanthropy, making the Normandale Foundation an ever more essential partner to the college.

To all who join me as Normandale Foundation donors and advocates, thank you. Your support transforms individuals, families and communities, and on behalf of the entire Normandale community, I am deeply grateful for your investment in our future.

Joyce C. Ester, Ph.D.

Joyce C. Ester, Ph.D.
College President

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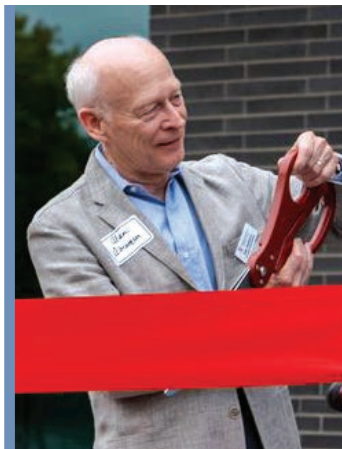
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NORMANDALE
COMMUNITY COLLEGE FOUNDATION



POISED FOR **GROWTH**

Dear friends,

The Normandale Community College Foundation engages donors, community partners and advocates in the college's work to make excellence in higher education accessible to all. Today, that means finding new ways to harness philanthropy as a uniquely powerful tool in achieving the goals President Ester shared in her message on page two.

For the last several years, the Normandale Foundation has focused on raising funds for a wide range of scholarships, enabling thousands of Normandale students to stay enrolled in college and achieve their goals. Under the college's long-range Advancement Division plan, we are broadening our focus and ways of work to include ending student hunger, developing and funding a mentorship program that matches alumni and other working professionals with Normandale students, and collaborating with the college to partially fund an initiative that prepares Black men to become K-12 teachers.

We are also committed to assessing all aspects of how we establish and fund scholarships to foster racial equity in persistence, retention and completion at Normandale. We plan to take a look at eligibility criteria, award amounts and promotion strategies. We will also broach new conversations with scholarship donors with an eye toward creating larger, more flexible, aggregated scholarship funds that maximize the ratio of dollars contributed to dollars getting to students every year.

It will take focus, persistence and a lot of hard work to achieve these long-range goals. It will also take a substantial increase in contributed revenue and the number of donors and volunteers who join our cause. With these realities in mind, we are so grateful for the leadership and commitment of our exceptional board of directors and staff and for our loyal donors. Your generosity fuels the work of creating futures and inspires us to dream even bigger! Thank you very much for your trust and support.

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to dream even bigger!

With much appreciation,

Andrea Specht, J.D.
Vice President of Advancement &
Foundation Executive Director

Alan Abramson
Foundation Board Chair

Cyrus Batheja and Shelby Lengyel

STUDENTS PAST AND PRESENT

On October 20, a live, virtual *Creating Futures* event helped the Normandale Foundation raise over \$150,000 to support students and programs.

The program featured several Normandale students – past and present – highlighting alumnus Cyrus Batheja and current student Shelby Lengyel. Cyrus is a first-generation immigrant whose single mother enrolled in the Normandale nursing program in the 1980s as a pathway to U.S. citizenship, a program from which Cyrus himself would later graduate. Years later, Cyrus is now a Senior Vice President at UnitedHealth Group and a Normandale donor himself! He credits Normandale with much of his success, calling it his family's "spark of hope." Shelby's story starts in Maple Lake, Minnesota, the town she drives over an hour to and from daily to get to her classes as a Normandale theatre student. Shelby, the first in her family to attend college, says, "Scholarships are my saving grace." The Normandale Foundation is deeply grateful to our generous board, which issued a \$45,000 matching challenge, our corporate and foundation partners, and Normandale's dedicated staff and students, who all made this new *Creating Futures* event a phenomenal success!

"Scholarships are my saving grace."
– Shelby Lengyel



Cyrus Batheja, Senior Vice President at UnitedHealth Group



Shelby Lengyel, recipient of the Excellence in Theatre Arts Scholarship

View the 45-minute *Creating Futures* event, hosted by Executive Director Andrea Specht, at www.normandale.edu/foundation.

Normandale Community College Foundation

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Goodbye and Thank You to Jane Welch

We bid adieu to Normandale Foundation board member Jane Welch this fall, with resounding gratitude, summed up by former Board Chair Mark Adkins: “Our then-executive director asked if I would work with Jane to get our by-laws updated. I scheduled a meeting with Jane over lunch one day, and from that time forward Jane and I began developing a wonderful working partnership. We were both hopeful about seeing the Normandale Foundation reach its potential. During the next five years, nearly all of our policies and procedures were updated, with Jane spending countless hours on these thankless tasks. She was largely instrumental in driving improvements in the membership of our board of directors. She is a great collaborator and doer. Jane never sought the spotlight, happy to

be behind the scenes to move the Foundation forward. Jane is a great partner and friend. Her contributions to the Normandale Foundation will be appreciated for years. She is a tireless warrior working on behalf of the Normandale Foundation.”



Staying Focused on Success

Camille Kotschevar

Camille Kotschevar is a first-generation college student and the daughter of a single mother who wanted her to get a college education. "She never wants me to feel stuck where I am, like

she sometimes does," says Camille, who hopes to transfer to the University of Minnesota and then go on to dentistry school. When Camille's estranged father died this spring, he left her as the executor of his estate at the onset of a global pandemic and in the middle of her second semester studies. Camille, who is also a member of Normandale's

leadership through service program and spends several shifts a week volunteering at the Campus Cupboard, couldn't think about taking on a job on top of everything else she had going on. "The scholarships have been such a big help," she

says. "I'm not currently employed because of everything going on in my life, and I don't know if I could have done it without the scholarships." Normandale Foundation scholarships help bright and promising students like Camille stay focused on their studies, even in the face of personal hardships.

"I don't know if I could have done it without the scholarships."



Supporting Dreams

David Reiss

David Reiss, who works full time in glass manufacturing, never thought he'd be able to make a mid-career change. But after working with the computer systems at the

manufacturing firm, he was inspired to go back to school to study computer science and found Normandale to be an "easy fit." Like many Normandale students, David wanted to pursue a new dream to create a better life for his family. In addition to working full time, David also juggles parenthood as the father of four children. He credits Normandale's flexibility and financial support for the ability to focus on his studies, saying that as a working father, "The scholarships help tremendously." David, who is planning on transferring to a four-year program and then possibly pursuing his master's degree before entering the field of programming, says, "The education and support I've received from Normandale have been a true blessing and a testament to the American dream."

"The education and support I've received from Normandale have been a true blessing and a testament to the American dream."

SMART GIVING TIP

Temporary changes to required minimum distribution rules may present a special opportunity to "do well while doing good" in 2021.

If you are at an age where you receive Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs) from your IRA or other retirement plans, you are likely aware that the federal CARES Act eliminated RMDs for 2020. Also eliminated for 2020 are the tax benefits of contributing some or all of your RMDs to qualified charitable organizations like the Normandale Foundation.

From a tax perspective, the only benefit of making Qualified Charitable Deductions (QCDs) in 2020 would be to possibly reduce your RMDs in 2021. Given this scenario, it may make sense to not make any QCDs in 2020 and instead, double the amount you would normally give to qualified charities in 2021. Doing so may reduce the amount of taxable income you would receive from your 2021 RMDs.

For example, imagine a person – we'll call her Mary – who receives RMDs of approximately \$40,000 per year and normally contributes 50% of that to qualified charities. This reduces

Mary's taxable income from \$40,000 to approximately \$20,000. Since there is no significant tax benefit to making QCDs in 2020, Mary could delay her normal charitable giving to early 2021 and double the amount she donates to \$40,000, thereby nearly eliminating her taxable income from RMDs in 2021.

Though this approach will not work for everyone, it could be a sensible tax strategy for many. *Please be aware that the Normandale Foundation does not offer tax advice.* We encourage you to consult your tax advisor to explore approaches that may make sense for you to consider.

WORKING TOWARD A HUNGER-FREE CAMPUS

In a recent survey, 38% of students said they worry about running out of food

before having enough money to buy more. To help end student hunger, Normandale has taken a multipronged approach to this complicated problem.

GRANTS FOR PREPARED MEALS AND MORE

This fall, Normandale received two grants that are helping to feed students. The first grant has allowed Normandale's food shelf, the Campus Cupboard, to partner with on-campus food provider, Tiffin Man, giving Normandale students access to healthy, ready-made meals at the rate of 500 meals per week.

The second grant, from Hunger Solutions, is called the Minnesota COVID Food Fund. This grant has allowed the Campus Cupboard to purchase more culturally specific foods, additional hygiene products, PPE and Cub Foods gift cards for students. The gift cards will be particularly helpful for students during winter break.

Both of these grants will be spent in full by the end of the year, per their guidelines. While these grants have been a great boon to ending student hunger, they are not a reliable long-term solution.

CAMPUS CUPBOARD EXPANSION

In a recent survey, 100% of student users reported that food from the Campus Cupboard has helped them to concentrate better on their school work. The Campus Cupboard's capacity will be expanded with a new partnership with Hope for the Community, a nonprofit food relief organization led

by Normandale alumnus, Alan Goracke. Originally started as an outreach ministry for his church, it has now become the third largest food shelf in the state.

Hope for the Community's \$30,000 gift to the Campus Cupboard focuses on adding fresh and frozen food options. This includes the purchase of commercial refrigerators and freezers, storage shelving, a front counter and 10,000 reusable bags.

Hope for the Community has also pledged six months' worth of fresh and frozen groceries for Normandale students.

ENDING STUDENT HUNGER WORK GROUP

The foundation's newly assembled Ending Student Hunger Work Group consists of community members, students, Foundation board members, staff and friends of Normandale.



Student Jeodaun Lee is an enthusiastic supporter of the Normandale Foundation and Campus Cupboard.

"Our role in ending student hunger will be to raise funds, provide strategic input and direction, and work on projects that add value to the overall cause," says group co-leader and Normandale Foundation board member, Scott Grossbauer of the Donaldson Company. The group is developing an action plan which will address student hunger both with and beyond the current food shelf model.

"We have to make sure funding is available to execute our action plan to put an end to student hunger."

"It isn't something that we achieve and then the work is done," says Grossbauer. "We need to continue to raise funds to ensure food insecurity is never an issue at Normandale."

HOW YOU CAN HELP

"We welcome engagement with individuals and organizations interested in contributing to our work through things such as food and/or hygiene item drives," says Campus Cupboard supervising staff member Paige Wheeler. There is also a need for additional funding to purchase food items, meal vouchers and gift cards.

Ending student hunger is a key component to Normandale's goals of increasing student retention and completion. It may also help eliminate race-based gaps in educational outcomes, as people of color are disproportionately affected by lack of access to healthy food.

DAVID B JONES
1929-2013

NORMANDEALE COMMUNITY COLLEGE IS HONORED AND GRATEFUL TO DEDICATE THIS CLASSROOM TO HIS MEMORIAL. A LIFELONG LEARNER WHO INSPIRED INTELLECT AND IMAGINATION AMONG GENERATIONS OF STUDENTS FOR ARCHEOLOGY AND PALEONTOLOGY.



ANCIENT ARTIFACTS PROVIDE A LEGACY OF LEARNING

David B. Jones' passion for anthropology and love for education live on at Normandale.

HONORING "DAVEY"

On October 9, the Normandale Foundation hosted a large, emotional, socially distanced gathering to honor David B. Jones' legacy with a plaque sculpted by John Sterner. Soon, the plaque will be mounted outside the entrance to the newly remodeled anthropology classroom, and the room will be named after the David B. Jones Foundation. For many years to come, people will see his name, but few will know the story of his life and legacy. This is that story.

David Jones, better known as "Davey," grew up in Wayzata. He briefly attended the University of Minnesota, but ultimately, he took his education in his own hands, armed with a photographic memory and a lifelong passion for dinosaurs.

Davey travelled the world and met with leading experts by visiting dig sites and simply introducing himself. Based on his self-guided research findings, he developed a process for making exact replicas of fossil forms, including dinosaurs and early humans, that he would then sell at conventions. Later, Davey developed a love for youth education, discovering how important it was to encourage young minds to explore their interests. He began this journey by leading Boy Scouts on digs.



Faculty and students of the Anthropology department who made it happen, left to right: Retired instructor Pat Bonnie, retired instructor Katy Goodell, instructor Bridget Fitzpatrick, retired instructor Steve Wiley, grad student Chrissy Pettit, recent graduate Jana Duggan, grad student Dawn Whitney, instructor Sue Krook, instructor Aaron Armstrong-Duarte, instructor Tracy Zank

Through his work with the Boy Scouts, Davey met the woman whose connections would eventually lead him to impact the lives of Normandale students. That woman was Muriel Runholt.



Muriel and Davey working with the Boy Scouts

ROOTED IN FRIENDSHIP

Davey and Muriel “clicked instantly,” according to Muriel, and their rapport blossomed into a life-changing friendship rooted in working with the Boy Scouts and digging up fossils.

Through Muriel, Davey learned about the uneasy relationship between Native Americans and archeology. He wanted to find a way to mend that. Muriel’s Lakota sister, Karen Sterner, was a fellow teacher at Southwest Minnesota State University (SMSU) and later went on to teach at Normandale. Karen had taught alongside Sue Krook, an Anthropology instructor at Normandale.

Sue Krook was intrigued by an article about a road construction crew that unearthed artifacts near Marshall, Minnesota. Later, she met the landowner who was delighted that someone was

interested in pursuing further investigation and digs in the name of education. However, Krook and Normandale lacked the resources to secure the land lease, equipment and student support to make this learning happen. Until, that is, she and fellow instructor Pat Bonnie met Davey at one of Muriel’s famous dinner parties.

A GRANT FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

Davey’s family foundation was very interested in the project and awarded Normandale a five-year grant for over \$600,000 to cover the costs of the project. This allows a new generation of community college students to access a hands-on learning experience, much like Davey did. Students of Native American heritage can also access funding to transfer to SMSU or the University of Minnesota to complete their four-year degrees.

Krook gives credit to Davey’s foundation for influencing Normandale’s teaching to become an “instrument of self-determination instead of one of cultural oppression.”

Davey has since passed away, but his legacy and likeness are captured in the plaque sculpted by Lakota artist John Sterner, a fitting tribute to a longtime friend and philanthropist.



Sue Krook



Pat Bonnie

Bob & Sally Purvis

INVESTING IN EQUITY

Retired entrepreneurs Bob and Sally Purvis understand the essential role that high-quality public education – from preschool through college – plays in advancing individuals, building businesses and creating a just society where people from all backgrounds can realize their full potential.



“We believe a good education is of primary importance for us to have strong communities,” Bob and Sally said. “Some people have the desire and financial ability to do private education but many intelligent children do not have this choice. We need to develop these and all of our youth to be good leaders of our communities – state and nation. Community businesses need a good educated workforce to draw from to remain a viable part of our community.”

Within weeks of learning about Normandale’s plans to develop a program focused on recruiting and preparing Black men to become K–12 teachers, Bob and Sally became founding donors of a newly created fund that will provide scholarships for the program’s first cohort.

“If we can encourage and assist people of color to become teachers, they have the potential of reaching and giving guidance to children to whom we are possibly not making a connection,” according to Bob and Sally.

A Legacy to the Power of Kindness



Lee Kopp loved making people’s lives easier and better. He gave away money instead of candy on

Halloween. He once sent his snowplow worker a check because he saw him working at 4:30 a.m., reminding him of how his dad used to get up to do the same thing. When he read a story in the newspaper about a person going through a hard time, he sent an anonymous check. A waitress from the Original Pancake House sent a card for Lee’s funeral, saying what an incredibly kind and unforgettable man he was.

Lee started a family foundation so he could spread kindness at a larger scale and impact more people. Lee was an early philanthropist for public two-year schools in the Minnesota State system. Normandale has the Kopp Student Center after many years of Lee supporting scholarships and pioneering the idea of emergency funds to help students stay in school. He called that fund “Random Acts of Kindness.” Former Normandale President Tom Horak said, “It was a fitting tribute to name the new student center after Lee. He was a man of the highest integrity and always gave with students in mind.”

Lee was known for his wit, intelligence, hard work and dedication to family. Anyone who worked for him attests to those qualities. His dedicated aide-de-camp Lindsay Lang describes him as “lovingly demanding.” He treated employees to lunch on their birthdays and took time to listen carefully.

“He was a man of the highest integrity and always gave with students in mind.”

Born the son of a parking lot attendant, Lee worked hard through high school and graduated from the University of Minnesota. After a brilliant career at Dain Rauscher, he launched his own investment firm at age 60 and was recognized nationally as a top money manager. He died on October 9, 2020, leaving a tremendous legacy to the power of kindness in the many lives he touched.

Scott Thayer

LIFE'S WONDERFUL CURVE BALLS

I never thought I would attend a community college, but it's probably the best experience I have had in higher education," says Normandale alumnus Scott Thayer.

After not making the University of Minnesota baseball team, Thayer transferred to Normandale not only to have a successful college baseball career, with back-to-back state championship wins, but also to kick off his career in student success.

For over 20 years, Thayer has inspired students in the California community college system. Currently, he serves as the Vice President of Student Services at San Bernardino Valley College. Throughout his career, Thayer attributes his time at Normandale to inspiring his daily work.

"I thought coaching was the route that I would take, but I realized that in doing student affairs I could do a lot more than just coaching."



"After the experience I had at Normandale, I wanted to be able to provide that similar experience to somebody else," says Thayer. He went on to get his start as a TRIO Upward Bound staff member and community college baseball coach.

"I thought coaching was the route that I would take, but I realized that in doing student affairs I could do a lot more than just coaching."

Thayer has held various positions in student affairs and has continued his own academic journey, receiving a Doctorate in Education from the University of Southern California.

As a community leader, Thayer lends his expertise to the mission of two nonprofits, including one he helped to found called A2MEND. A2MEND (African American Male Education Network & Development) is an organization that supports underrepresented African-American males in higher education, taking his influence beyond his day job.

Looking back at his Normandale education, Thayer says, "I think it set a great foundation for moving forward in my career."

Thayer's career is a wonderful example of the spirit of giving back that so many graduates develop at Normandale. In Thayer's case, ending up at a community college changed his entire career path – baseball and beyond.

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For more information or to request a copy of our Legacy Circle enrollment form, please contact Associate Executive Director Jane Fenton at **952.358.8143** or jane.fenton@normandale.edu.

We are deeply grateful to the Legacy Circle members (listed at right) for ensuring that Normandale continues to thrive for generations to come.

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STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION (UNAUDITED)

ASSETS	TOTAL
Current Assets	\$ 453,738
Investments – Program Fund	\$ 3,696,383
Investments – Endowments	\$ 572,508
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 4,722,629
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	
Total Liabilities	\$ 96,305
Total Net Assets	\$ 4,626,324
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$ 4,722,629



656

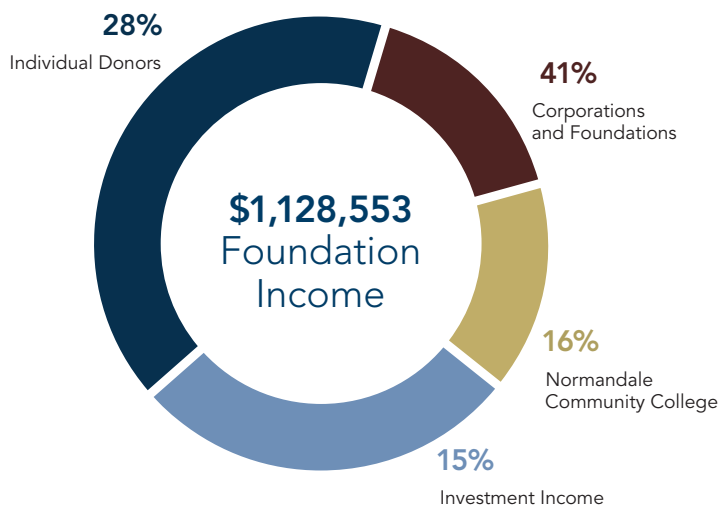
Scholarships and
Departmental
Awards Provided



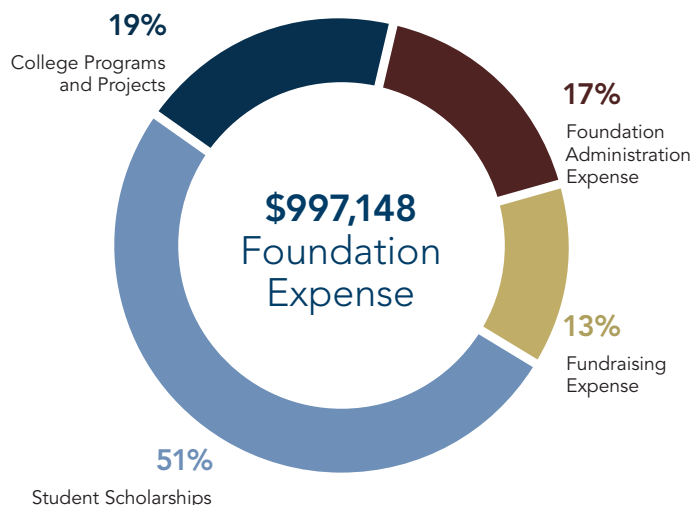
\$702,901

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as percent of total revenue and support



as percent of total expenses



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IN MEMORIAM

In gratitude for their service and passion for Normandale, we recognize the following faculty, staff and supporters who have passed away since July 1, 2019.

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Rex W. Gaskill

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REMEMBERING REX

We are sad to report that longtime Normandale employee **Rex Gaskill** passed away on April 10, 2020. He was a faculty member in Speech Communication and the Director of Forensics. Rex coached many national champions and award winners in forensics and was awarded Phi Rho Pi's Distinguished Service Award and the Outstanding Contribution to Speech and Theatre Award by CTAM. Rex served as president of the faculty. He became Dean of Liberal Arts in 1999 and also served as interim dean of business on several occasions.

He is survived by his husband and life partner of 34 years, Paul John Strandberg.

Rex will be remembered for his dedication to Normandale and higher education, his love of travel and his commitment to anything that he participated in. He didn't just join, he was active – serving on committees, taking leadership roles and welcoming others. His calm demeanor and warm personality resulted in friends traveling around the country, mentioning Normandale – only to be asked if they knew Rex.

His friends, former colleagues and students contributed funds to create the **Rex Gaskill Memorial Academic Travel Scholarship** to create more opportunities for Normandale students.