



**MINNEAPOLIS
COLLEGE®**

FOUNDATION



ANNUAL REPORT 2024

Celebrating the Power of Giving

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Letter from the **President**

Dear Donors and Friends,

Minneapolis College creates those pivotal intersections where education and workforce development meet to shape lives and lift communities.

The successes highlighted in this report were all made possible by you—the donors and friends who champion our mission to make life-changing education accessible.

Our successes are rooted in a shared commitment: to provide an inclusive, supportive learning environment where students can thrive. Together, we navigate the challenges and opportunities of this moment in education, united in the vision of a stronger, more equitable future.

Today's students face complex challenges, and their need for holistic support has never been greater. At Minneapolis College, our comprehensive approach to student well-being addresses essential needs of mental and physical health, food security, and housing. These efforts, combined with your generosity, enable students to overcome barriers and focus on their studies, personal growth, and future aspirations.



Every dollar you contribute is a tangible vote of confidence in a student's potential. Your support reminds them that their dreams are worth believing in and pursuing.

You help us expand the boundaries of what is possible. Thank you. Together, we are building a brighter future—one student, one dream at a time.

Sincerely,

President Sharon J. Pierce, Ed.D.

Letter from the Foundation Board President

Dear Donors and Friends,

Together we achieved great things this year! Once again, through your generosity, we were able to provide more than \$1,000,000 dollars to support the mission of Minneapolis College, including scholarships and program support — all things which are enhancing the student experience and boosting student success.

At the very end of this fiscal year, we were able to add an important member to our team, Alison Sherman. Alison has a broad base of development and fundraising knowledge with 17 years of experience across a range of nonprofits and educational institutions. Her efforts will greatly increase our capacity to grow partnerships and support from businesses and private foundations.



In the coming year, our goal is to fully support students who are in their first year at Minneapolis College, so they can successfully complete the academic year. We know that helping students be successful in this important first year greatly increases retention and graduation rates.

To this end, we have robust cohort programming at Minneapolis College — from TREC (Transformation and Re-entry through Education and Community), to cohorts like our Bridge, STAR, Power of YOU, and Women in the Trades. All of these programs rely on the private financial support of donors like you.

The Foundation Board of Directors and I look forward to continued partnership in this area.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Stephanie Hammes-Betti".

Stephanie Hammes-Betti

Minneapolis College Foundation

2024 Board of Directors

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STEM Funding to Enhance Undergraduate Research

The U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF) is investing \$14.5 million in the inaugural set of awards through its Innovation in Two-Year College (ITYC) STEM Education program.

The program aims to support potentially transformative projects that will advance innovative, evidence-based practices at two-year colleges nationwide in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education.

Congratulations to Renu Bhagat Kumar, Ph.D. Biology Faculty and PI/Director of NSF STEM grant programs at Minneapolis College for securing NSF funding of \$499,006 to enhance the undergraduate research initiative at the institution.



*Renu Bhagat Kumar, Ph.D.
Biology Faculty*

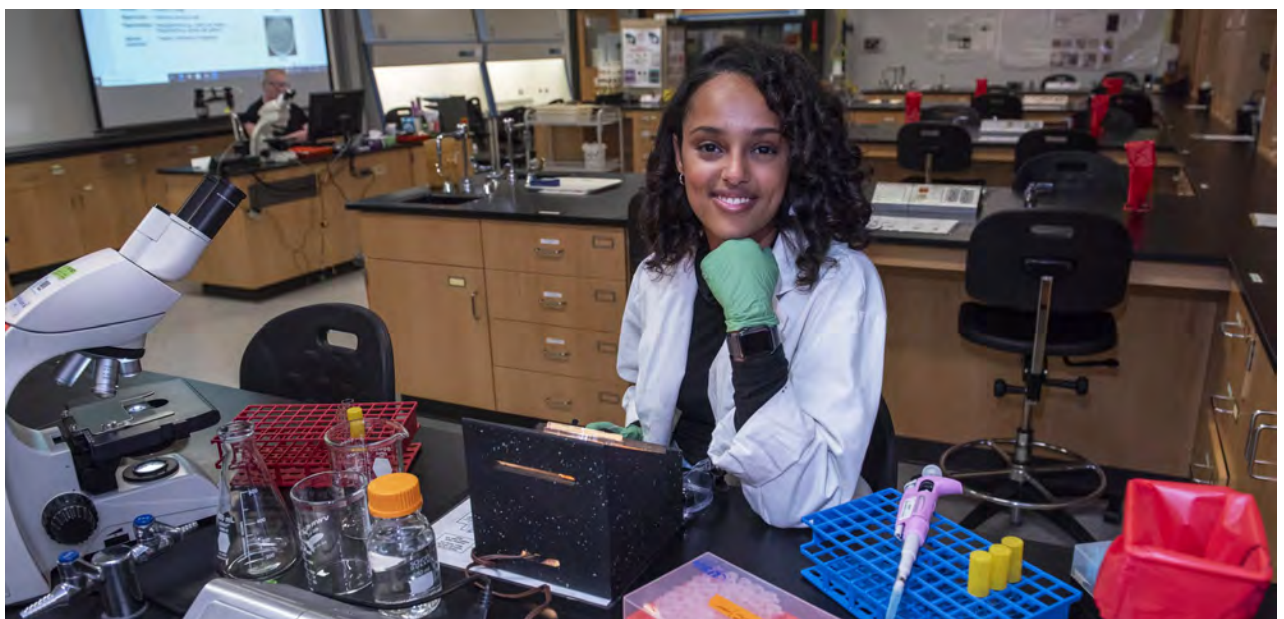
“Community colleges play a critical role in training people from all parts of the country for a variety of STEM careers including future scientists, engineers, and technicians,” said NSF Director Sethuraman Panchanathan.

“The Innovation in Two-Year College STEM Education program is essential to how we expand pathways and opportunities so more talented people from every part of the nation have the opportunity to make their way into STEM. I’m pleased that Congress recognized the critical role of community colleges in the ‘CHIPS and Science Act of 2022’ and the foundation they provide for educational opportunities. Programs like ITYC are how we build on that foundation to

reach more young people who have bright futures ahead of them in the STEM community.”

The twin goals of the ITYC program are to (1) center students in the effort to advance innovation, promote equitable outcomes, and broaden participation for all students in STEM education at two-year colleges and (2)

enhance the capacity of two-year colleges to harness the talent and potential of their diverse student and faculty populations through innovative disciplinary, multi-department, and college-wide efforts.



State-of-the-art facilities at Minneapolis College support student learning.

Top Five Financial Needs of Minneapolis College Students



1
Housing/Rent



2
Transportation



3
Household Bills
(including electricity and wifi to support students in completing assignments and attending classes online)



4
Technology for School



5
Groceries

“Community colleges play a critical role in training people from all parts of the country for a variety of STEM careers.”

**- Sethuraman Panchanathan,
NSF Director**

These goals will be reached by investing in projects at two-year colleges that contribute to student success in STEM-based foundational courses and academic pathways for majors and nonmajors.

ITYC offers two key tracks: “A Focus on the Academic Experiences of Two-Year College Students” and “Leveraging Institutional Strengths and Innovation.” A total of 35 awards have been granted for proposals within these tracks, as well as for conferences, workshops, and planning efforts.

Minneapolis College received funding for Supporting Academic Excellence in STEM. Kumar, Principal Investigator of the project describes this initiative as “a collaborative, interdisciplinary effort among various STEM departments at Minneapolis College. It aims to engage and support students from diverse social identities in undergraduate research experiences, while also empowering our faculty to develop these scholarly activities.”

The ITYC program is aligned with the NSF Improving Undergraduate STEM Education framework, which is a comprehensive effort to accelerate improvements in the quality and effectiveness of undergraduate education in STEM fields. The program advances research on the nature of learning and teaching at community colleges to improve outcomes for students who enter the workforce upon completion of their STEM degree or credential, or transfer to four-year institutions.”

To learn more about the program, visit the ITYC webpage.

Donor Spotlight

TREC Student Retention Fund

Minneapolis College partners with businesses, community organizations, school districts, and individuals on workforce development, service, philanthropy, and more to promote student success and advance its mission to provide access to the transformative power of education.

Transformation and Re-entry Through Education and Community (TREC) is a partnership between Minneapolis College and Metropolitan State University focused on offering degree programs at three state correctional facilities: Stillwater, Lino Lakes, and Faribault. The TREC Partnership offers an associate degree track through Minneapolis College and a bachelor's degree track through Metropolitan State University.

Minneapolis College Foundation donors

John and Linda Satorius have a passion for justice-impacted students and have been generous supporters of the TREC program since its inception. "Education is an important tool for leveling the playing field and can be instrumental in helping to pull families out of generational poverty, out of harm, and can literally change lives," said Linda Satorius. "It's a way to disrupt harmful cycles and pave the way for a better life."

"When the U.S. Department of Education's Second Chance Pell Grant was reinstated, a majority of the TREC participants qualified for tuition reimbursement.

The costs associated with an education, however, go beyond tuition, so TREC funding is critical," said Linda Satorius who recognizes the importance of wraparound services to help students be successful.

"Many TREC students are alienated from familial support systems, and re-entering the community after years of incarceration can be difficult. Ancillary necessities like books, educational and workforce tools, food, and housing are imperative and often unaffordable to our TREC students. A new fund called Yes You Can! TREC Student Retention

Fund supports basic needs so students can overcome barriers and stay in school."

The College will be responsible for selecting the award recipients according to the following guidelines:

- Students are enrolled in classes on the Minneapolis College campus.
- Students are active participants in the TREC cohort program.
- Students are identified by TREC faculty and/or staff as a student in need of additional support to stay in school and on-track to completing their degree.

"Since the students re-entering the community have a high need for basic support services, the Yes You Can! TREC Student Retention Fund will be an essential resource for student success," said Satorius, who has already witnessed

"This fund provides a real and tangible way to support students who are working hard pursuing their dreams."

- Linda Satorius

“The TREC program has completely changed the trajectory of my life! When I first came to prison, I was lost, my future looked dark and devoid of purpose. [Then] MCTC accepted me into the TREC program. Prior to being part of the TREC program, I never believed I could do something worthwhile with my life. I know that I want to use my education as a vehicle for change in my community. Thank you TREC! Thank you MCTC! Thank you all for supporting me and giving me hope!” – Eric *Lino Lakes Correctional Facility*

one student access the fund to help purchase HVAC tools so he is ready to enter the workforce.

Linda Satorius serves on the Minneapolis College Foundation Board and is the Chair of the Board Engagement and Nominating Committee. She is actively engaged in the Loring Park neighborhood.

TREC enrolled more than 80 students in the first year and grew the program to 150 students in 2022-23. Funding is provided through grants and donations from Ascendium, Jobs for Future, and the Minneapolis College Foundation. The program was also awarded the U.S. Department of Education’s Second Chance Pell experimental site so incarcerated students are eligible for some Federal Pell Grants.



John and Linda Satorius meet with President Pierce

We Thrive – Women in the Trades

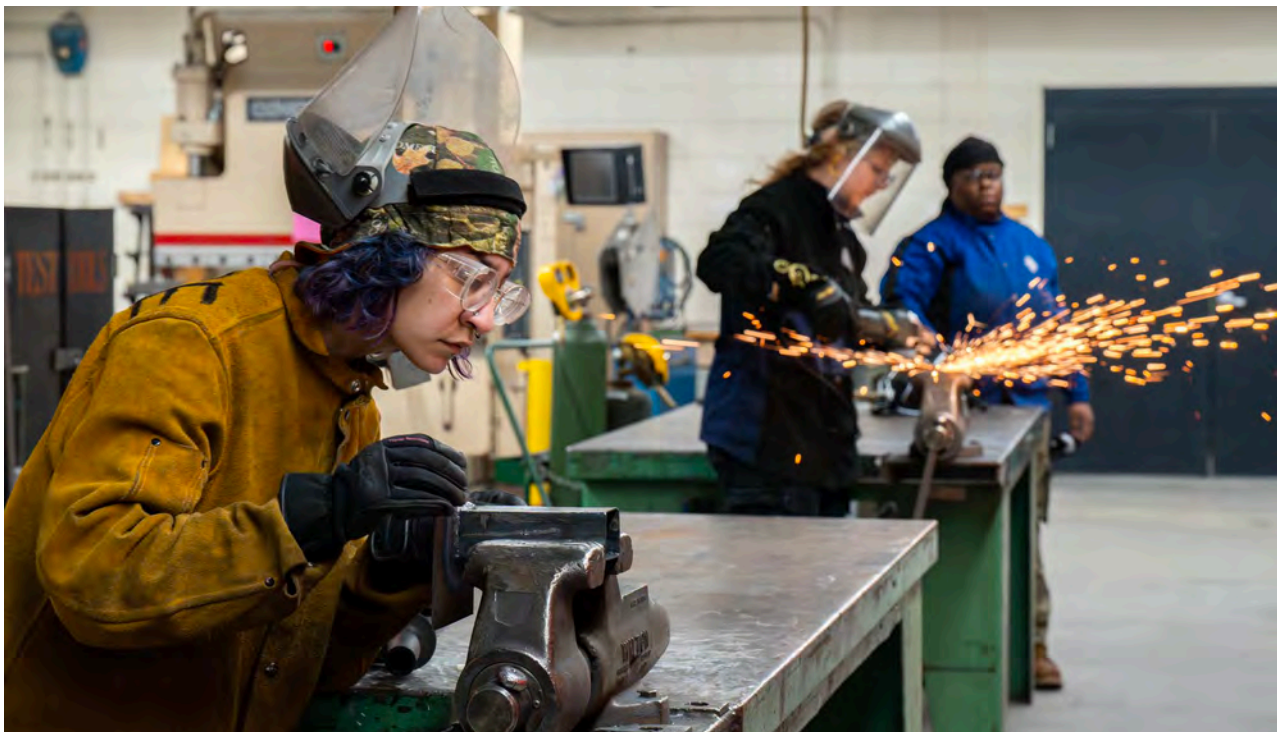
A new pilot program called We Thrive — Women in the Trades, supported by the Women’s Foundation of Minnesota, will provide \$200,000 to support a new initiative recruiting women into trade programs at Minneapolis College over the next two years. This pathway to high-demand, well-paying jobs champions asset-building career solutions benefiting women and their families.

Special marketing and outreach will support recruitment efforts attracting women to participate in the We Thrive — Women in the Trades pilot program and boost awareness of the economic benefits of a career in the trades. The College will select student participants from eligible applicants who are women aged 25 and over with an interest in one of the five School of Trade Technologies programs offered at Minneapolis College: Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning, and Refrigeration; Welding and Metal

Fabrication; CNC Machinist; Bicycle Assembly and Repair Technician; and Aircraft Maintenance Technician.

“Along with hands-on training, wrap-around support services will mitigate barriers to women’s ability to complete their education such as access to adequate childcare, transportation, emergency aid funds, and other needs that threaten student retention,” said Alison Sherman, Corporate and Foundation Grants Officer at Minneapolis College. Sherman indicated students will participate in a special cohort beginning in the fall of 2025 and 2026 to encourage connection and encouragement.

“This initiative is a cross-functional collaboration including financial support in the form of scholarships, mentoring programs, peer support, leadership skills training, and career services to help students navigate roadblocks to their academic success. The two-year program





will inspire gender diversity in the trades and provide support for women from enrollment to graduation.”

“The Women’s Foundation of Minnesota’s We Thrive grant beautifully links Minneapolis College’s past and present to educate students for a brighter future. In 1914, Elizabeth Fish established Minneapolis College to educate women for careers in trades, including dressmaking and millinery, that would allow them to earn family-sustaining salaries,” said Vincent Thomas, Dean, School of Trade Technologies at Minneapolis College.

“Today, we have women instructors in our airplane mechanic, bicycle mechanic, and HVAC technician programs, all of whom joined our faculty within the last four years. Their talents and the College’s historic commitment to providing career pathways for women will provide We Thrive participants with an education that will positively change their lives and the lives of their families.”

The Women’s Foundation of Minnesota supports community-based, community-led solutions to ensure safety, opportunity, and pathways to economic security for women, girls, gender-expansive people, and families across Minnesota. Their We Thrive grant program supports wealth-building by investing in education.

“We know from our research that the gender wage gap in Minnesota has barely budged over the past decade. On average, women in Minnesota make 81 cents for every dollar that men make. That adds up to almost half a million dollars that women in Minnesota lose in lifetime earnings due to this gap,” said Gloria Perez, President and CEO of the Women’s Foundation of Minnesota. “The Women’s Foundation of Minnesota supports programs like We Thrive – Women in the Trades because it can help close that gender wealth gap and provide pathways for more women to enter career fields that offer better pay.”

“The We Thrive grant is vital for empowering women in trade programs, helping them overcome financial and systemic barriers to thrive in industries historically dominated by men,” said Heidi Aldes, Dean of Enrollment Management at Minneapolis College, who is part of a collaborative team that supports the new pilot. “Without these comprehensive programs, students may not have the resources to stay in school and graduate.”



Love Takes Center Stage

Elizabeth Collins Moore was part of the fabric of Minneapolis College, serving as director of Black Student Support in the 1980s, where she engaged in its mission to develop and create pathways for the educational success of students of color. Through intentional programming, she supported students in developing their leadership capacity through mentoring and increased involvement in the college community, society, nation, and the world.

When Elizabeth Collins Moore passed away at 82 years-old, her family wanted to honor her legacy and the dedication and passion she held for the projects and people she loved. They accomplished this by gathering friends and family, ultimately making a monetary gift of more than \$2,000 to the Minneapolis College Foundation in her honor.

Moore was born in Newton, Mississippi and moved to Gary, Indiana as a small child, graduating from Tolleston High School in 1961. She moved to Minneapolis to attend business school, which launched her professional career at Control Data. In partnership with her husband Louis, whom she married in 1963 at St. Thomas Episcopal Church, the two became entrepreneurs, opening a successful retail store called the Athletic Attic. Moore continued her education at Metropolitan State University, graduating with a bachelor's degree in communications.

The Moores settled their family in the Field Regina community in South Minneapolis, becoming the first black family to purchase a home on their block. Similar experiences to their own were highlighted in *Jim Crow of the North*, a

Twin Cities PBS Original documentary. "We weren't supposed to be there," said Louis Moore, who noted the racial covenants that red lined people out of neighborhoods. The couple persisted, established their home, and with great determination, raised their three children, Valerie William, Pamela Moore, and Jason Moore, to be strong, independent, and confident so they could successfully navigate the challenging world.

"Love has always taken center stage in our family and it started with Elizabeth," said Louis Moore who takes great pride in the accomplishments of all three of their children, noting they work hard, are committed to the communities in which they live, and own their own homes. Jason and Pamela even began their college careers at Minneapolis College.

Minneapolis College President Earl Bowman, Jr., recruited Moore to the College in the 1980s and she spent 10 years supporting students prior to retiring. Throughout her life and during her time at Minneapolis College, Moore was well known for being a strong mentor and advisor. "People felt comfortable around her and as a result, gravitated to her," said her daughter Pamela Moore who fondly remembers her mother as authentic, committed, and filled with integrity. "In fact, our house was considered home by friends, former students, and family members who stayed for hours, days, months, even years. Everyone was welcome."

Moore enjoyed spending time with her friends and her women's group, "Diamonds in the Rough," playing cards, sewing, having dinner, engaging in crafts,

serving as her family's historian, and traveling to places including Florida, Tanzania, and Scotland. Moore never missed an opportunity to capture a moment with her camera. Her favorite subjects were her children, grandchildren, friends, and sunsets.

"Our family has always been close," said Valerie William, who recalls traveling the country as a child in the family camper van. "We saw every state!"

Jason emphasized the strength of their family, stating, "that's mom."

The Minneapolis College Foundation's goal is to provide an adequate amount of private funding to the College each year to help ensure every student who needs a private scholarship and/or wrap-around student support services receives what they need to be successful. A student who receives an annual scholarship of \$2,500 or more, consistently throughout their time at Minneapolis College, is more likely to stay in school, complete their degree, and either transfer to a four-year institution and/or secure a job in their field.



The Moore Family. Elizabeth Collins Moore (right front)

We Get By With a Little Help From Our Friends

The Minneapolis College community continuously steps up in significant ways to ensure students have what they need to succeed. During the winter months, a holiday food drive, gifts of warm winter clothing, generous monetary donations, and beautiful bolts of fabric for students enrolled in the Apparel Technologies program took center stage. Our friends and neighbors consistently enhance the student experience at Minneapolis College adding light to every season. A few of the ways our community gave back during the 2024 holiday season include:



HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE

A holiday food drive, inspired by Foundation Board members Carolyn Hall and Chuck Malkerson, was held through mid-December generating more than 20 shopping carts overflowing with food, winter hats and gloves, and personal care items for the Food Pantry and Student Resource Center. Hall and Malkerson personally donated brownie mix, cranberry sauce, and yams to fill 100 holiday meal bags, as well as assorted supplies throughout the month-long drive. Their fellow residents of Loring Green West participated in a significant way, continuously giving throughout the month.

WOMEN'S CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS

The Women's Club of Minneapolis had a vision to become more actively engaged in the community and civic matters that benefit Minneapolis and its residents. One of those initiatives is to be more involved with Minneapolis College. In the spirit of Thanksgiving, members of the Women's Club donated more than \$1,700 to the Food Pantry and intends to make this gift annually. Continuing their generosity, members also donated six cases of breakfast cereal to the food drive.

"The financial and in-kind donations to our food pantry have great impact to our students in need," said Becky Nordin, Dean of Students and TRIO Director, who believes the gifts are a representation of compassion, kindness, and humanity. "It creates a ripple effect in our student's lives. Students are able to provide food for themselves and their families. In return, students can focus on their education knowing that the basic need of food is being met. Every act of giving has a profound impact and we are grateful for the Loring Green West and Women's Club donations."

According to Heidi Goettl, Director of the Student Resource Center, in 2024 alone, 4,301 students accessed the Food Pantry and 49,841 pounds of food were distributed. "Research consistently shows a strong link between good nutrition and educational success," said Goettl. "The Food Pantry helps ensure students in need have access to food which can significantly impact their ability to learn, focus, and achieve academically."

FIRST UNITARIAN SOCIETY

Throughout December and every other week during the year, the First Unitarian

Society donates 100 snack packs every other week to the Food Pantry. Snack packs include beef sticks, chips, fruit cups, juice boxes, and more. They are essential to students across campus providing a boost of energy to help them get through their day.

WARM WINTER CLOTHING

A regular contributor to the Random Acts of Kindness Fund, Joan Strand, donated high quality warm winter clothing to the Student Resource Center. Minneapolis College shapes its environment through a holistic approach ensuring students have access to basic needs so they can focus on staying in school and reaching their goals.

“I am so grateful I’m able to help students by providing donations to the Random Acts of Kindness Fund and clothing to the Resource Center,” said Strand who believes in supporting community in any way she can. “I so appreciate the meaning and impact of the Fund, the work of the Resource Center, and the kindness of the faculty and staff toward their hard-working students.”

WINTER SCARVES

The St. Mark’s Knitting Club delivered a dozen handmade winter scarves to the Student Resource Center to keep some of our students warm through winter. Their intention is to provide additional scarves throughout the season.

The Knitting Club makes scarves, hats, and socks for local shelters, schools, HCMC, and senior living homes. Started more than 30 years ago by Marilyn Halker, participants have also donated more than 500 prayer shawls for individuals in need of comfort during difficult times and they have given beautiful, soft baby blankets to every child baptized at St. Mark’s.



FABRIC

In the Apparel Technologies program, students receive extensive hands-on training in design, manufacturing, alteration, and fitting. Creating their own garments is part of the student experience, so when several bolts of crushed velvet fabric landed in the classroom in December, and others throughout the year, it creates boundless opportunities for creativity.

“We feel so very fortunate to be the recipients of multiple garment and fabric donations this year,” said Kristine Gyolai, Dean of the School of Design and the Arts. “Gifts like the exquisite Schiaparelli hat gave our faculty the opportunity to show students historical techniques and designs firsthand. The generous donations of fabric bring supply costs down for students in our Apparel Technology program and provide them the opportunity to experiment with a wide range of textures, colors, and properties of fabrics. We can’t wait to get these items into the hands of excited students.”

Alumni Spotlight

Lisa Clemons - Building Community and Strengthening Families

Founded by Lisa Clemons in 2014 and located in North Minneapolis, A Mother's Love Initiative addresses the gun and domestic violence affecting African American communities through mentoring and empowering African American women, men, and children.

Lisa Clemons, alongside her staff, mentor young people throughout the year and provide summer employment. Youth serve the community in myriad jobs ranging from lawncare to sorting food donated to local food shelves.

"When you send young people out into the community to work, they give 150% of themselves to every job," said Clemons who notes the initiative draws youth from all over the Twin Cities. "Starting at age 12, youth can participate in the program and older teens can serve as youth supervisors. There is also a team of mothers and fathers involved as mentors."

CEO LaJuanda Flowers said she noticed how the youth grew throughout the summer experiencing pride in their accomplishments. She noted they also began to form valuable connections with one other. "They uplifted each other. It was powerful for me to watch," said LuJuanda Flowers. "If somebody was upset or sad you could see one of the other kids ask, 'What's wrong? Are you okay?'"

"I always tell her (Clemons) you couldn't have picked a better name because it stands out," said Flowers. "A Mother's Love. It is powerful. A mother's love, because we all know how important it is."

Community building is an important component of this grassroots organization's work.



A Mother's Love Initiative. Lisa Clemons (right)

"Participants see the respect and the love we are pouring into them," said Flowers. "They know community is real and we have their back." Mentors at A Mother's Love Initiative stay in contact with youth throughout the year to promote further connection and growth.

Clemons, a Former Minneapolis Police officer, said the years on the force gave her perspective in her current work. "I knew I wanted to work with women and daughters." In the 13 years she served, Clemons said 98% of the households she interacted with were African American.

Clemons said Black women and girls are the most impacted by poverty and other disparities and often the last to be served. "There has always been a high number of single Black mothers heading households so it is important to support, mentor, and empower them in positive ways."

Clemons earned an Associate Degree in Criminal Justice/Law Enforcement Administration from Minneapolis College and has immense gratitude for how the College supported her as a single mother while she pursued her education. "A lot of strong Black women come out of Minneapolis College."

Alumni Spotlight

Karina Elze – Your Journey is Only Yours

When alumnus Karina Elze began her studies at Minneapolis College in 2011, her passion for teaching was unleashed. To this day, she holds gratitude for her experience at the College, where she discovered her path.

Born in Cúcuta, Colombia and growing up in Bogotá, Colombia, Elze has a foundation of strength from both her family and country. After attending high school in Bogotá, she moved to Germany to study the language. Upon returning from her travels, she attended Bogotá Corporación Unificada Nacional de Educación Superior (CUN) where she earned an associate degree in 2008. Looking for a new adventure and greater opportunity, she applied and was hired to be an au pair and moved Massachusetts.

Not long after moving to the United States, she found her way to Minnesota and Minneapolis College. While earning her associate degree at Minneapolis College, she discovered a love for teaching, something that had previously never crossed her mind. Suddenly, it paved the way for the rest of her education and her vocation.

Elze always worked and attended school so when she secured a scholarship from the Minneapolis College Foundation, it eased some of the financial burden of school and provided her a chance to more easily focus on learning.

After graduating from Minneapolis College, Elze transferred to Metro State University and earned her bachelor's degree in education. She worked as a teacher, learning what components of educating others was most important to her. With that information in mind, she founded her own child care center.

Academia Elze is a Spanish Immersion Child Care Center in Minneapolis that adheres to a holistic approach of early childhood education. The aim is to celebrate diversity to develop the enthusiasm to learn, investigate, discover, and transform the world around us. The belief is when children are exposed to different environments and various learning experiences, it allows children to explore their self-awareness and gain a sense of the world around them. By the time children leave Academia Elze, they are fully prepared for the next stage of their education.

“Don’t compare your journey to those who follow the traditional path of attending university without the need to work,” said Elze who believes each person’s road is unique, and life can take unexpected turns. “Focus on believing in your effort, and having faith that your hard work today will lead to a better future. Your effort is unique, valuable, and worthy—go at your own pace, because your journey is only yours.”



Student Spotlight

Keilan Crawford – Exploring the Lanes in HVACR

“Minnesota may have cold winters, but it will feel much warmer for anyone wanting to build a trade career due to its low cost of living, low unemployment rate, and high earnings,” according to a report from *ACHR News*. In fact, the report states the average income for someone in the trades is \$70,580, but with the low cost of living score of 94.1, the state’s income and cost of living index ratio is 750. And with unemployment at 2.7%, if you find a job as a trade worker in Minnesota, you are more likely to keep it or find another one quickly if you lose it. More than 52% of students in Minnesota CET programs earn a certificate, which, while on the lower side, 90.2% of students find positions within six months of completing their education.

In the spring of 2025, Keilan Crawford will graduate from Minneapolis College’s Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning, and Refrigeration (HVACR) program with solid skills to diagnose problems, perform repairs, and conduct maintenance on residential and commercial heating, ventilation, air conditioning, and refrigeration systems. And regardless of the state of the economy, his employment will remain secure because homeowners and businesses always need trained HVACR technicians.

Keilan Crawford originally landed at Minneapolis College as part of the Building Operations Technician (BOT) career pathway program, a partnership between Minneapolis College Continuing Education and Workforce Development (CEWD) and Project for Pride in Living (PPL).

The intensive nine-month BOT program prepares graduates for careers in residential or commercial building operations. The program includes a variety of short classes to expand the



opportunities for students, including machine tools, HVACR, plumbing, electricity, and carpentry to name a few. Participation in the BOT program led Crawford to a well-paying job as a maintenance worker for Hennepin County with benefits and career growth opportunities. He subsequently moved on to a position as plant maintenance engineer helper at the Minnesota State Capital expanding his scope and experience.

While participating in the BOT program, Crawford was immediately drawn to HVACR and decided to pursue further education. “There are so many lanes to choose from in the field of HVACR,” said Crawford who loves the variety it brings and the opportunity to work virtually

anywhere. “Everything has changed since I started the program. I’ve learned so much and consider it a game changer for my life, my confidence, and my sense of purpose.”

Crawford recently had an opportunity to represent Minneapolis College as part of a panel at The National Council for Workforce Education (NCWE) Conference. NCWE is an inclusive community of workforce professionals dedicated to sharpening skills, building networks and mentoring future growth. “I second-guessed myself for many years,” said Crawford, who was honored to share his experience with conference attendees about how the BOT program prepared him to study HVACR at Minneapolis College. “Now I am an inspiration to my children, partner, siblings, friends, and broader community.”

“It has been awesome to witness Keilan’s growth trajectory over the past few years,” exclaimed Amy Shapiro, Customized Training Representative for Continuing Education and Workforce Development at Minneapolis College. “The BOT program helps participants earn important

certifications, like OSHA30 and their Boiler’s License, that they can use to land good-paying jobs in many companies and organizations. And for some students, like Keilan, BOT gives them curiosity and confidence to continue their learning at Minneapolis College, and earn their degree. We love to see it when this happens.”

Crawford is looking forward to taking his skills to a new position at the City of Minneapolis where he will work under the direction of a foreman, in buildings throughout the city, as an operations engineer. “I can’t say enough about my educational experience and I encourage people not to let their doubts or insecurities get in the way of their future success,” said Crawford. “I am grateful to my friend for sharing their BOT experience and connections with me and take every opportunity to share that knowledge with people wherever I can.”

Crawford was born in Chicago, moved to Minneapolis at age seven, and now resides in Robbinsdale with his partner and their two children.

The Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development anticipates a shortfall of nearly 4,000 HVAC workers over the next decade. This shortage is further highlighted by the fact that HVAC mechanics and installers are listed among occupations in demand in the state.

Minnesota’s skilled trades sector is a vital component of the state’s economy, encompassing industries such as construction, manufacturing, and utilities. Minnesota faces a significant workforce shortage in the skilled trades. The state has only 51 available workers for every 100 job openings, underscoring the pressing need for skilled labor.

Alumni Spotlight

Kristen McCoy - RETHINK Tailoring

Kristen McCoy has been an upcycler for 29 years, and is equal parts designer, upcycler, tailor, and problem-solver. She is of the belief that vintage is the most glamorous form of eco-friendly clothing and if something in your closet is too small, damaged, or out of date, it can be repurposed into a creative piece you'll be proud to show.

Kristen McCoy was raised on a farm in Hoffman, Minnesota, as the youngest of three siblings. She understood the value of old clothes and hand-me-downs, using them as materials for her creative projects. When her grandmother gifted her a vintage sewing machine, she learned the basics, which allowed McCoy to explore her ideas for purses and art. Years later, as she aspired to create clothing, she discovered that garment construction and fitting were more complex than she had expected. At the age of 19, facing a pile of unfinished projects in her closet, McCoy realized she needed either a new hobby or further training.

Minneapolis College Apparel Technologies program beckoned and offered her extensive hands-on training in design, manufacturing, alteration, and fitting to provide her the foundation she needed to reach for her goals. "The faculty at the College welcomed my creative spirit and the ideas I had around wearable art, something that was rare among the schools I researched," said McCoy. "My experience at Minneapolis College drastically changed my life by providing me with the skills I needed to build my ideas into a business model that showcased my creativity."

McCoy was impressed by the diversity of the students at Minneapolis College who came from all walks of life and



ranged in age from high school PSEO undergraduates to senior citizens. "The faculty and students were smart, creative, encouraging, and collaborative," said McCoy, who also appreciated the affordability of Minneapolis College and the access to financial aid.

After graduating from the program in 2009, McCoy moved to Washington, D.C., and began working as an in-house seamstress at a vintage store. A short time later, she and one of her best friends from Minneapolis College, Erin Orfanon, opened Ginger Root Design, an artisan boutique that became the home of the duo's upcycle designs and tailoring business, specializing in revamping and recycling garments. After an amazing five-year run, Erin and Kristen decided to close their doors and focus on their growing families.

McCoy moved back to Minneapolis and rebranded as RETHINK Tailoring so she could prioritize revamping old, often forgotten items, from the backs of closets

to custom couture fashion. McCoy's path, however, hasn't always been smooth. In March of 2020, she opened the doors of a community-based sewing lounge where people could connect, learn to sew, and garner inspiration from one another. The day after they opened, the pandemic hit and McCoy was required to close the doors, and pivot. She describes it as soul crushing and though she kept her team intact for 2.5 years, reinventing it along the way, the lounge never fully reopened as she envisioned it.

When that door closed, other doors opened and life pushed her back to her upcycled designs, with McCoy participating in fashion shows, designing upcycled costumes for the James Sewell Ballet, upcycling a red carpet gown for one of the founders of the James Beard Award winning restaurant, Owamni, and even getting to do wardrobe for Diana Ross.

McCoy has a Minneapolis studio that focuses on upcycling and private instruction at 3508 Snelling Avenue in the Mullet warehouse attached to Audrey Rose Vintage. RETHINK has a mission to keep as much clothing out of landfills as possible. "People can shop RETHINK's upcycled designs online at rethinktailoring.com or email info@rethinktailoring.com to set up a shopping appointment in the studio," said McCoy. "Visitors to the website will also learn about community events and a new clothing collection site I'm setting up outside of the studio to collect unwearable garments and materials to use for upcycling."

"Fashion is about personal expression and staying true to yourself and what makes you feel the best," said McCoy. "Things don't always go as planned so just keep going and when you look back, it will all make sense."

Giving Snapshot



\$500
pays transportation costs for one semester



\$1,000
pays for books and supplies for one year



\$5,900
covers annual tuition for most degrees



\$10,000
covers academic-related expenses plus incidentals for one year



\$25,000+
endows a scholarship in perpetuity

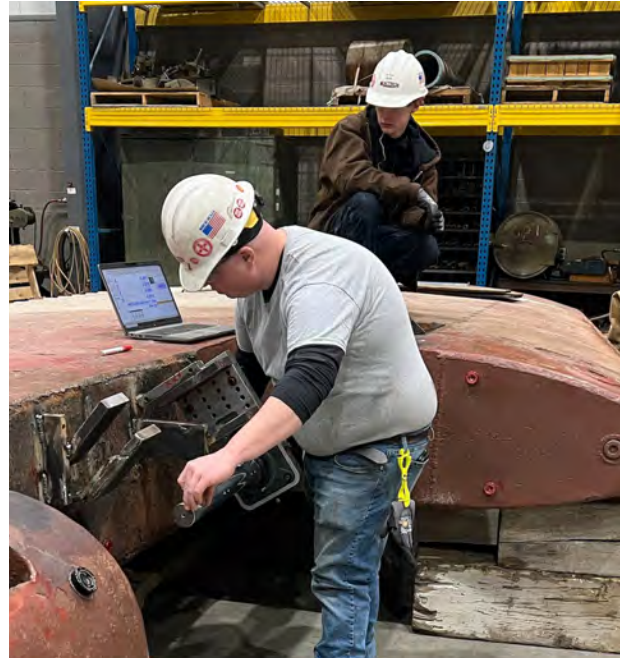
Alumni Spotlight

Blake Clerico - Solving Large Scale Machining Challenges

Imagine being in the middle of a critical, time-intensive project and you need a large industrial machining provider. Depending on the scope of the work, you may consider having it done offsite, but that isn't always practical, possible, or efficient. Minneapolis College 2022 CNC Machinist program graduate Blake Clerico is part of a critical and trusted team at Mactech, an industry leader in machining, that shows up, tools in hand, with an impressive team of machining professionals to solve large-scale challenges, ultimately improving efficiency and garnering results.

"I have a difficult time containing my excitement when I'm explaining my work," said Clerico, who credits his studies at Minneapolis College for putting him on a path in life that he would never otherwise have been able to accomplish. "Machining is a field with vast opportunities ranging from working with tiny parts in the medical industry to large-scale equipment you have to move with a crane. You can go anywhere you want with a machining career." Two years ago, Clerico was a fresh grad and new employee at Mactech. Today, he's helping lead difficult jobs from start to finish with a team of talented people. Clerico notes Mactech is the world's foremost provider for major industries worldwide including fossil fuel plants, refineries, chemical plants, and offshore oil.

"Machining is fundamental to how our world operates," said Clerico, who has worked on complex projects across the country. "At some point in the life cycle of most products, there was a machinist involved." Vincent Thomas, Dean of the Minneapolis



College School of Trade Technologies agrees, "I still remember something I heard in my first year as an academic dean from Kim Munson, who graduated from the Minneapolis College machining program, had a career as a machinist with Northwest Airlines, and then spent the last 21 years of his career as our machining program's lead instructor. Kim said anything that was not created by nature had something to do with a machinist. When I talk with prospective or first-semester CNC Machinist program students, I quote Kim to give them a vision of what our program will educate them to do in their careers," said Thomas.

Clerico can regularly be found working at two local shipyards, near his home in Wisconsin, machining foundations for the power engines on ships and parts for weapons and radar systems. In Saco, Maine, near Portland, he was part of a team that worked for a week in a deep, dark, humid, and cold space near the water boring hinges for the wicket gates on a hydroelectric dam. The team drew a crowd of onlookers when they dropped in several 3,000 pound pins that fit so perfectly they spun effortlessly when in place.

Clerico learned early on to keep an open mind about learning opportunities. He believes if you focus on your interests, there's a way to make those interests into a valuable skill. Looking back, he wishes there was more emphasis on trade programs when he attended high school compared to the emphasis on the four-year liberal arts track. He earned a bachelor's degree in anthropology from Minnesota State University Moorhead in 2012 which he values, however, it was the two-year CNC Machinist program at Minneapolis College that opened the doors to his future.

"I had no idea what machining was or how extremely complex it can be," said Clerico, who discovered CNC machining while watching a YouTube video and became instantly interested in the possibilities of the work. "I researched and found Minneapolis College's CNC Machinist program, and then was set up for success. A trade scholarship from the Minneapolis College Foundation helped offset the cost of my education, making the opportunity more accessible, and taking the financial pressure off me so I could concentrate on my studies."



"I love my work, which is so niche that no one else is doing it," said Clerico. "When I was laid off from a job at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, I had no idea what was ahead. Today, I'm enjoying the diversity and opportunities presented to me. Every day brings a new chance for me to dive down into the weeds and come together with my colleagues to create custom solutions that solve challenges presented in the field. Minneapolis College helped open the door to the trade of machining."



2024 Foundation Event Highlights

POWER OF DREAMS BREAKFAST

A huge thank you to our annual scholarship donors. Your commitment to Minneapolis College students is helping to retain and graduate a strong workforce and build a more vibrant and equitable Twin Cities community.



PRESIDENT'S GIVING CIRCLE

A special thank you to the donors in our President's Circle, who have taken their giving to the next level. The generous and ongoing commitment of these donors helps Minneapolis College consistently respond to student needs and continually improve the student experience.



GIVE FROM THE HEART SUSTAINABLE GIVING CHALLENGE

Every February, the Minneapolis College Foundation challenges faculty, staff, alumni, and friends to consider the profound impact of sustained giving. These donations

play a crucial role in providing a steady, reliable stream of support that helps our students overcome life's challenges and remain focused on their academic goals.



“I give because our students are amazing, and they deserve all the support we can offer.”

Tara Martinez
Director of Student Life



“We offer unique paths to success for all students. I give to support those paths.”

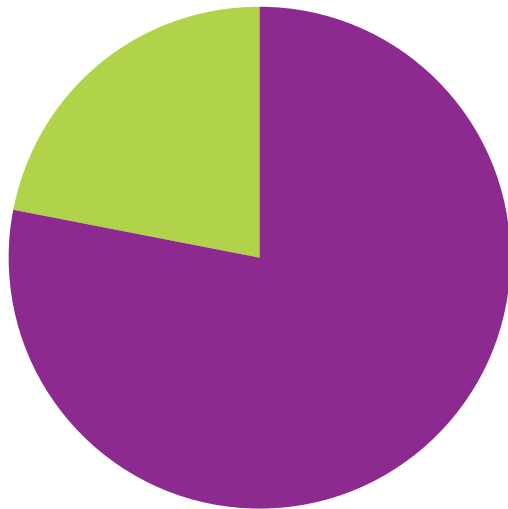
Heidi Aldes
Dean of Enrollment Management

Sustained giving — in the form of monthly donations, payroll deductions, and planned gifts — has long-lasting effects, creating an enduring legacy of support. This ensures the continued success of Minneapolis College students, making a difference that echoes through generations.

2024 Statement of Financial Activity

Minneapolis College Foundation

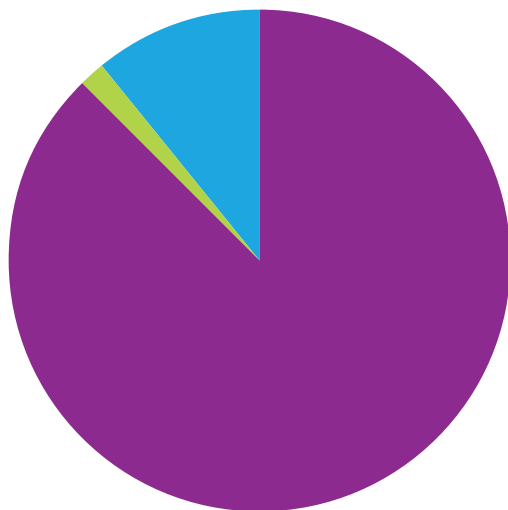
2024 REVENUE



Contributions and Grants \$798,505 ■
Investment Income \$223,411 ■

Total Revenue \$1,021,916

2024 EXPENSES



Contributions and Grants \$969,444 ■
Fundraising \$20,281 ■
Operational Expenses \$117,125 ■

Total Expenses \$1,106,850

2024 Donors

More than \$100,000

Anonymous
Dennis and
Carlonna Lindell

\$50,000 - \$99,999

Kopp Family Foundation
Fred and Maureen
Williamson

\$25,000 - \$49,999

Deloitte Foundation
Gina Folmsbee
Isora Foundation
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Hungry and Homeless
Saint Mark's Episcopal
Cathedral
U.S. Bank
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\$10,000 - \$24,999

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Graco Foundation
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\$5,000 - \$9,999

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\$1,000 - \$4,999

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Blue Horizon Energy
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Amy Ryan
Lynn Carroll
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Comcast
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Kathleen Gozola
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Karen Oslund
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Florence Ostrom
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Catherine Polasky and
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\$100 - \$999

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Brad Nix	Ben Weng	FamilyWise Services	David Rask
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Lida Strot	John T. Daniels	Minnesota Technology Association	
Jean Sundlof		Mystic Lake Casino	
Devender and Kamlesh Syal		Ida Njee	

Gifts That **Keep On Giving**

The Minneapolis College Foundation's goal is to provide an adequate amount of private funding to the College each year. This ensures every student who needs a private scholarship and/or wrap-around support services receives what they need to be successful. Academic support, student services, and direct student support are critical pieces of the student success story at Minneapolis College.

Sustainable, ongoing annual giving is a top priority for the Foundation. We offer seamless giving experiences for our generous donors to accomplish this important goal. Sustained giving provides funding year after year and includes:

- Automatic monthly gifts paid with a credit card
- Repeat annual gifts
- Cash or stock from donor advised-funds or minimum required distributions
- Faculty and staff bi-weekly payroll deductions
- Gifts that establish endowed funds at the Foundation

A student who receives an annual scholarship of \$2,500 or more, consistently throughout their time at Minneapolis College, is more likely to stay in school, complete their degree, and either transfer to a four-year institution and/or secure a job in their field.

If you would like to learn more about how you can establish a sustainable gift to help ensure the academic success of our students, contact the Advancement team.



minneapolis.edu/give

The **Advancement Team**



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Get Involved! 2025-26 Events and Activities

Events occur on campus throughout the academic year providing valuable experiences to enhance the learning environment, promote the College, and invest in the community.

Visit [Minneapolis.edu/volunteer](https://minneapolis.edu/volunteer) to learn more about ways you can participate:

- College & Career Days
- Equity & Inclusion Events
- Fall 2025 Welcome Week
- Fall and Spring Open House Events
- Food Pantry
- Mentorship
- Power of Dreams Scholarship Breakfast
- President's Giving Circle Reception
- School of Design and the Arts Spring Fashion Show

About Minneapolis College

We are a comprehensive two-year college with offerings in the liberal arts, career and technical education, enrolling nearly 10,000 for-credit students annually. Located in the heart of Minneapolis, we actively partner in initiatives to strengthen the social, economic, and cultural vitality of the Twin Cities metropolitan area.

The buzz and vibrancy of our metropolitan setting fills the halls and learning spaces of Minneapolis College, creating a learning environment of energy and opportunity. Our

spacious campus, adjacent to Loring Park, covers 21.6 acres. Mass transit along with walkways, bikeways, and neighboring streets and freeways make getting to our campus a breeze.

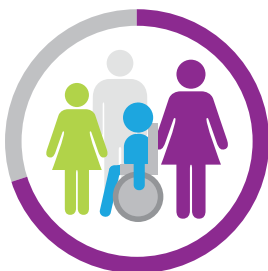
We are one of the most diverse college campuses in Minnesota. More than 70 percent of students identify as being members of Indigenous or communities of color, international, low income, or first generation. At Minneapolis College, we strive to eliminate barriers, build bridges, and cross them together.



\$500,000+
in scholarships
awarded
every year



100+
degrees
offered



70% of students
are from under-
represented groups



61%
of students receive
financial aid



19:1
average student
to faculty ratio

Minneapolis College Foundation helps solve issues of affordability and access to higher education through scholarships and initiatives that support students, enhance the readiness of our workforce, and support the strategic priorities of the College.



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