

ANNUAL REPORT

2023

Celebrating the  
Transformational Power  
of Your Generosity



**MINNEAPOLIS  
COLLEGE®**

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**FOUNDATION**



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## Letter from the **President**

Dear Donors and Friends,

The challenges we face in education today are dynamic and multifaceted, requiring us to adapt and innovate to ensure our students receive what they need to persist and succeed.

Technology's rapid advance continues to transform how we teach, learn, and engage with information. Embracing digital tools, online platforms, and immersive technology isn't an option but a necessity. By being at education's technological forefront we can empower our students and faculty to thrive in the digital age. We create flexible program delivery, offer opportunities for lifelong learning, and seek to connect with our alumni in new ways.

Technological advance is a powerful catalyst for ensuring that our students have access to transformative educational opportunities. Higher education must be a place where all voices are heard and valued. We foster an environment that reflects the rich tapestry of our community and actively works to dismantle barriers to success.

Minneapolis College students face unique challenges. Many have experienced food insecurity, homelessness, or foster care; many are low income or first-generation; many are parents themselves or have newly immigrated to this country. A recent survey of our students revealed that the major reason they leave a program is due to juggling work (often two jobs) and school, or managing personal and family obligations. Tuition and fees alone won't make college possible for the many Minneapolis College students who must choose between staying in school or feeding themselves or their families or paying their rent.



We strive to create an environment that not only fosters academic success but also safeguards the physical and mental well-being of our students. Together, as a resilient and forward-thinking community, we will continue to provide an exceptional education that equips our students for success in an ever-changing world.

Thank you for your support, for being a part of our community, and for making a difference in the lives of our students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Sharon J. Pierce".

President Sharon J. Pierce, Ed.D.

## Making the World a Better Place

David Zander was born in London, England during WW2. A storyteller at heart, David Zander often shared how on his fourth birthday, Adolf Hitler sent him a gift — an unmanned bomb that shattered the windows of his childhood home and imprinted him with shards of glass. At the start of the Blitz, London was attacked on 57 successive nights.

Zander was exposed to things many people never experienced during his lifetime which fueled his love for sharing stories and ultimately, for teaching. He earned his teaching certificate and left England to teach in Greece, Africa, and the Caribbean. During his travels, he met and married his first wife whom he followed to Minnesota, the place he called home even after their divorce.

Zander earned a bachelor's degree in Cultural Anthropology from the University of Minnesota and became a professor in the field. An avid volunteer, he could be found volunteering with the Center for Cross Cultural Healing and the Center for Victims of Torture, where he met Kathleen McCollough Zander, a faculty member in the Nursing program at Minneapolis College, whom he married in 1999.

Recognizing his dedication to the Asian Pacific community, Governor Tim Walz declared July 12th, 2022 to be David Zander Day in Minnesota. He was recognized as a Cultural Anthropologist who has worked with and wrote about many of the Asian Pacific refugees and immigrants in Minnesota. In

fact, the Minnesota History Center published and archived eight of his life histories of Hawaiians, Samoans, and Karen (pronounced Kah-REN) in Minnesota. He has three small collections of Lao, Karen, and Cambodian (Khmer) folktales and personal stories told by refugees and monks in Minnesota, published with the help of graphic design students from Dunwoody College. He has pieces in the Asian American Press about Karen monks and received an award for his article, *The Other Face of Bhutan* about Hindu refugees from Bhutan who fled Nepal.

Alongside his wife Kathleen, the Zanders were unstoppable and led a life filled with adventure, spending much of their time in the great outdoors hiking, camping, and canoeing with their cocker spaniels. Family friend Kim Rosdahl could often be found taking part in their adventures. Kim Rosdahl met Kathleen McCollough Zander during their first day of nursing school and the two became fast friends.

McCollough Zander was diagnosed with an aggressive form of lung cancer and passed away in October of 2014. Unlike her prior battle with ovarian cancer that was in remission, this one was unbeatable. Recognizing her fate, McCollough Zander asked Rosdahl to help care for her busy husband after her death. Rosdahl embraced the chance to support her friends.

Rosdahl stood by Zander after the death of her best friend. During that time, Zander asked her to be the executor of their estate after his death. He made it clear he wanted

**“Kathy cared for everyone she met, including me, when I came to Minneapolis College as a new faculty member,” said Rebecca Swadner, MA, RN-BC, faculty advisor, Student Nurses Association at Minneapolis College. “She mentored me and became a dear friend, as did David. Kathy’s passion for her students was evident in the way she engaged them, how she taught, and in the development of her program. I learned so much from her about working with students from other cultures and I try to honor her legacy with everyone I meet. This donation helps us continue to improve our nursing program and it extends Kathy’s legacy of caring and her passion for teaching.”**



*Pictured, from left: Becky Swadner, Nursing faculty; Kim Rosdahl, Zander family representative; Gail O’Kane, Vice President of Academic Affairs; Beverly Wadsworth, Director of Advancement and Foundation; Naomi Thomas, Dean of Nursing, Health Sciences, and Wellness; and Christine Kreiner, Lab Nursing Specialist.*

the legacy of his late wife to continue, asking for one third of their estate to be donated in support of the Nursing program at Minneapolis College where she shared her passion for teaching and love of nursing.

McCullough Zander was a few months shy of earning her doctorate at the time of her death, working on a curriculum to help non-native nursing students. Zander worked hard to ensure her work was recognized; she received her doctorate posthumously. Zander

was instrumental in getting a bill passed that provided funding for the curriculum to be used at four local colleges.

“A chance meeting at the start of nursing school changed my life,” said Rosdahl who recalls her friendship with the Zanders fondly, noting it took more than three years to close the estate. “I am honored to have helped facilitate carrying out their legacy of making the world a better place and helping ensure their love of teaching and learning lives on.”

## Top Five Financial Needs of Minneapolis College Students

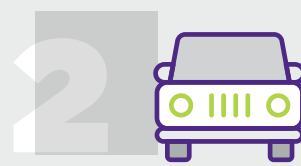


1  
Housing/Rent



3  
Household Bills

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



2  
Transportation



4  
Technology for School



5  
Groceries

## The Fred C. and Maureen G. Williamson Scholarship Fund

Generous gifts to the Minneapolis College Foundation by Fred C. and Maureen G. Williamson in 2022 and 2023 established the Fred C. and Maureen G. Williamson Scholarship Fund.

This new Scholarship Fund commemorates more than 35 years of Fred's involvement in the HVAC industry, culminating in owning and operating a successful HVAC mechanical contracting company, NSI Mechanical. The Scholarship Fund also honors Maureen's lifelong love of teaching and supporting children. This began early in her career as an elementary school teacher and has continued throughout her lifetime as she continues to tutor, mentor, and volunteer today.

manufacturing, construction management, healthcare, agriculture, early childhood education, information technology, public safety, and transportation.”

Awards are intended to support a single student through completion of and graduation from their program at Minneapolis College. Part-time and full-time students in the certificate and diploma programs, as well as A.S. and A.A.S. degrees are eligible for scholarships.

The Williamsons are firm believers in the value of a technical education. They were impressed with the faculty, staff, facilities, and wrap-around services available to students at an affordable cost when they visited Minneapolis College.

“When you receive a technical education, it's a great way to make a good living with solid benefits,” said Fred Williamson, who recognizes many people are pushed toward college without learning about the option of a technical degree. “Having run my own business, I have a tremendous respect for people who are educated in the trades and always planned projects alongside my technical colleagues to take advantage of their skills and expertise in the field.”

Similarly, Maureen Williamson understands not everyone knows their path when they start college. She also recognizes students often change their career goals in the first two years, remembering how she discovered her love of working with children while volunteering in a program to help the children in a neighborhood near her college. “Minneapolis College is a great place to discover your path,” said Maureen Williamson.

Awards shall be made in the amount of \$2,500 per student each year.



*Fred & Maureen Williamson meet with President Pierce to solidify the Scholarship Fund.*

“The Scholarship Fund recognizes the significant role and numerous contributions skilled tradesmen, tradeswomen, nurses, and educators play in our community,” said the Williamsons. “It is dedicated to supporting the education and training of future generations of skilled workers in the fields of HVAC-R, Nursing, Early Childhood Education, and any one of the identified State of Minnesota Workforce Development high-demand fields including advanced

# Letter from the Foundation Executive Director

Dear Donors and Friends,

By now most of you have heard about Minnesota's new tuition-free offer for students who have an adjusted gross income under \$80,000. This new initiative is called *North Star Promise*. Beginning in fall 2024, this new State of Minnesota scholarship program will create a tuition- and fee-free pathway to higher education for eligible Minnesota residents.

North Star Promise is a "last-dollar" scholarship program that will cover the balance of tuition and fees remaining after federal financial aid and other scholarships, grants, stipends, and tuition waivers have been applied. ***Oh, so they don't need me anymore, you might be thinking.***

***This could not be further from the truth*** for Minneapolis College students working and attending school part-time while balancing family responsibilities. Many students are parents themselves.

The annual cost of attendance for Minneapolis College students is \$26,098. This includes housing, books and course materials, personal and household expenses, and transportation, in addition to tuition and fees — all things a student must pay for while attending college.

The estimated average amount a Minneapolis College student will receive from North Star Promise is \$4,588. Combined with the average Pell award of \$2,540, and, perhaps a private scholarship award of \$2,500, students still need a minimum of \$16,470 to persist and graduate from Minneapolis College.

***Currently just 6% of students receive private scholarships from the Foundation, while 50% qualify to receive Pell grants.***



Your support will have an even greater impact on student success now than before North Star Promise. When a student can take ***one less shift per week in their part-time job, they have additional time for school and home life.*** All of this adds up to higher student success and graduation rates.

Thank you for your dependable support of Minneapolis College students. Your generosity fuels a vibrant and more equitable community for all of us.

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "B Wadsworth". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Beverly Wadsworth

# Brian K. Lindell Scholarship Fund – A Legacy Ensuring the Future of the Addiction Recovery Workforce

On August 24, 1979, Brian Kenneth Lindell was the oldest child born to Denny and Carlonna Lindell. Brian Lindell's early years were spent on the family hobby farm in South Dakota. There, he developed a strong work ethic and a love for animals and the outdoors.

Lindell was musically inclined, playing piano and guitar, singing with the Sioux Falls Boys Choir, and playing tuba in the school marching and jazz bands. His love for music allowed him to channel his artistic side, however, Lindell's brain was also wired for computer work. He had a knack and interest in anything related to electronics and technology, enjoying learning the mechanics of computers. Alongside his brother, he would take apart electronics to understand how things work.

Before his freshman year in high school, the Lindell family moved to Chaska, MN where Lindell enjoyed extracurricular activities like choir, Knowledge Bowl, and band. He was active in his church youth group and enjoyed socializing within his circle of friends.



After graduating from Chaska High School in 1997, Lindell attended the University of Minnesota Duluth before transferring to Crown College where he studied computer science and completed his Microsoft Certification. This led Lindell into a successful career in IT. He worked for many companies including Best Buy and HighJump Software, eventually starting his own business, *Personal Touch Computer Consulting*, where he specialized in setting up and installing networks for small businesses.

## CHANGING DIRECTION

Throughout his life, Lindell faced myriad challenges. His mental health was something he worked very hard at along with his ongoing recovery from addiction. Lindell's journey taught him how to live one day at a time and the importance of being of service to others. Lindell's experiences shaped the direction of his life and is where his greatest impact on others can be felt.

Lindell changed course from the IT world, restarting his academic studies at Minneapolis College. He studied Addiction Counseling and earned his degree in 2019. During his time on campus, Lindell developed strong relationships with faculty, staff, and his student colleagues. He was a tutor, mentor, and leader participating in Student Senate and the Addiction Counseling Club where he could often be found supporting students on campus. Lindell was active in LEAD MN and advocated for increased nutritional supports for students during lobbying trips to Washington, D.C. After graduating from Minneapolis College, he transferred to Augsburg College to study Bio-Psychology. Lindell worked hard with his newfound passion for academics to create a meaningful future for himself and others he planned to help along the way. He wanted to understand how addiction impacts the brain.

## LEAVING A LEGACY

On December 12, 2020, Lindell's life unexpectedly came to an end. The significant loss was a call to action for his family and friends. A collaborative brainstorm between Lindell's eldest brother AJ Lindell and Minneapolis College English faculty, Melissa Castino Reid, conceived the idea for a scholarship in Lindell's name, benefiting students enrolled in the Addiction Counseling Program, his passion. Donations flooded in from all over the country ensuring the Fund will live in perpetuity.



"I've never seen my brother with his head held up so high as when he walked through the halls of Minneapolis College prior to his graduation ceremony," said AJ Lindell who recounts how Brian knew nearly everyone and greeted people with a warm smile and his trademark hug. "The Addiction Counseling Program was a point of pride for my brother and the scholarships ensure his legacy of supporting people through the field of recovery continue."

"Our son, Brian, will be remembered as a sensitive and empathic man," said his parents Denny and Carlonna Lindell who were touched when the first scholarships were given in the name of their son. "Brian always made people feel special, important, and understood. He was a gift to his family and



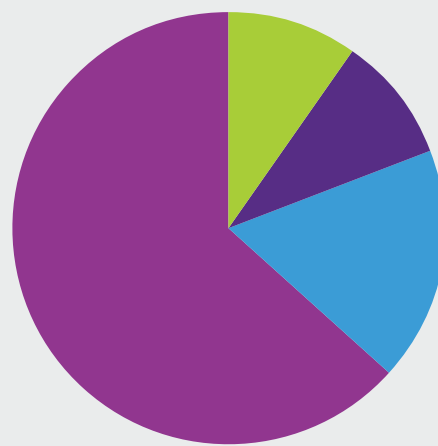
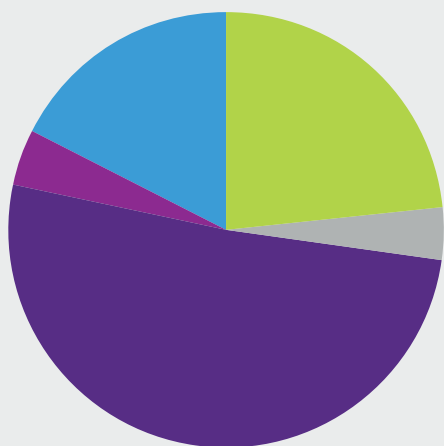
the world. We are honored Brian will continue impacting the field of Addiction Counseling and the lives of helping professionals and their clients through this scholarship fund."

## Annual Cost of Attendance

Tuition at Minneapolis College is significantly lower than tuition at most other colleges and universities, and Minneapolis College has worked to hold tuition rates down. Despite the low cost of attendance, many students

need additional support beyond the federal and state grants available to them.

Your gift supports unmet needs and increases student success by making college possible.



- Tuition/Fees: \$6,128
- Books and Course Materials: \$1,000
- Housing and Food: \$13,345
- Transportation: \$1,125
- Family/Household Expenses: \$4,500
- Total Cost of Attendance: \$26,098**

- Average Pell Award: \$2,540
- Average Private Scholarship Award: \$2,500
- North Star Promise Scholarship: \$4,588 (estimated amount for qualifying students beginning fall 2024)
- Cost Covered by Student: \$16,470



## Letter from the Foundation **Board President**

Dear Donors and Friends,

Last year, your generosity provided more than 500 students with scholarships and emergency support, while other students benefited from your gifts to wrap-around student support services such as the food pantry, mental health support, individualized coaching, mentorship, advising, and innovative programs and activities that are enhancing the sense of belonging and community at Minneapolis College.

As Board President, I'm constantly grateful for your generous contributions. Over the past three years, the Minneapolis College Foundation has been able to increase philanthropic support of students and the College by 126% because of your generosity. Our goal is to maintain and continue to grow this support year after year. Your gifts increase the success rate of Minneapolis College students and directly impact the broader community in profound ways.

A recent corporate donation helped to increase student retention in STEM and Business studies by more than 50% — a transformational leap in educational outcomes. Companies and their employees contribute time and talent in the classroom and as mentors. Neighbors volunteer in the school's food pantry and enhance the College community by spending time on campus, interacting with students, faculty, and staff.

Over the past couple of years, so many of you have established a new scholarship fund, or included the Foundation in your retirement funds, will, or estate plans. I look forward to another great year with all of you.

Please share your thoughts, feedback, and new ideas with me or any of the Foundation Board members. You can reach any of us through [foundation@minneapolis.edu](mailto:foundation@minneapolis.edu).

In partnership,

Stephanie Hammes-Betti

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



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**BOARD SECRETARY**

Educator, Brooklyn Center Community School

# Minneapolis College Foundation 2023 Board of Directors

## DIRECTORS



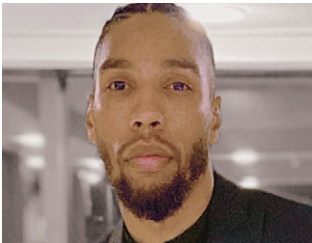
**Michael Dorsey**  
Chief Information Officer, Small  
Business Financial Intelligence LLC;  
Owner, MD Propertiez/Dorsey  
Portfolio (retired)



**Bob Erickson**  
IT Executive Management  
Professional



**Ramona (Mona) Harristhal**  
Administrative Director,  
Page Education Foundation  
(retired)



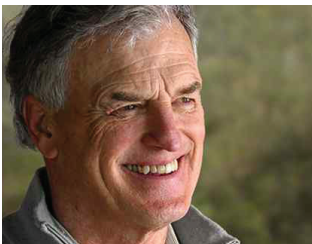
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Professional Boxer;  
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Sales & Marketing,  
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**Pete Matthieson**  
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**NEWLY  
INCOMING  
BOARD  
MEMBERS  
FALL 2023**



**Carolyn Hall II**  
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**Chuck Malkerson**  
Consultant (retired)

# TRIO Starting Point and the TRIO Educational Opportunity Center

The goal of TRIO Student Support Services programs is to increase the college retention and graduation rates of its participants. TRIO Starting Point and TRIO Student Support Services grants are provided to Minneapolis College from the U.S. Department of Education. They serve students demonstrating an academic need who are first-generation, low-income, or have a disability.

Started during the War on Poverty and the Higher Education Act of 1965, TRIO Starting Point grants began serving students in college in 1968. Minneapolis College received its first grant in 1980 and now serves more than 465 students annually.

An array of comprehensive support services available free to all TRIO Starting Point students on campus include:

## ADVISING:

- Advice and assistance in course planning, selection, enrollment, and monitoring of academic progress and intervention when needed
- Transfer planning & application assistance, transfer college campus tours
- Financial education: FAFSA applications and coaching on financial aid & financial wellness, scholarship searches and application assistance
- Career exploration and planning

## ACADEMIC SUPPORT AND PROFESSIONAL TUTORING:

- Professional tutoring, study skill development
- Educational workshops
- FYST 1000: Orientation to Higher Education course

## LEADERSHIP AND CULTURAL OPPORTUNITIES:

- Cultural events
- Leadership opportunities, student conferences
- Peer support

“The overall goal of TRIO Starting Point is to help students successfully persist in college, graduate, and transfer to pursue bachelor’s degrees,” said Kris Leveille, TRIO Starting Point Director. “Our caseloads are small so advisors are able to dedicate more time to each student and provide a point of contact to help when questions surface during their academic career.”

## HOW DONORS FILL THE GAPS

“The support of the Minneapolis College Foundation is critical to the success of TRIO participants,” said Kris Leveille, who notes TRIO does not provide financial support or supplies to students, including scholarships or tuition assistance. “A majority of the students we serve need additional support financially. Scholarships from the College Foundation help to relieve some of the financial stress students experience. They can better focus academically when they are able to work fewer hours.” Leveille also notes it’s not just about the financial support. “Scholarships mean someone believes in them, cares about them, and helps to eliminate some of the self-doubt that can surface when students are attending college for the first time.”

According to one TRIO participant, the specialized support services provided to them by a caring support team helped them succeed in school. “Knowing I always have someone available to help me work out a problem or find information that I don’t quite know how to access has made it possible for me to be a successful student. With the many problems that I face every day as a student it means so



*TRIO participants at Minneapolis College gather together to celebrate First Generation College Student Day.*

much when an advisor or staff can take one off of my shoulders. I now have a much better understanding of my strengths and weaknesses as a student and what options are available to me as an individual.”

### **TRIO EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY CENTER**

Participants who are not yet enrolled in but are interested in attending college can reach out to the TRIO Educational Opportunity Center (TRIO EOC), located in the Welcome Center. Prospective students receive help getting started, guiding them through the postsecondary admission, financial aid application, and acceptance process to help ensure they are off to a strong academic start.

TRIO EOC is funded the same way as TRIO Starting Point, through the Department of Education. Minneapolis College received its first grant in 1988. TRIO EOC serves 2,750 participants annually. TRIO EOC provides counseling and information on postsecondary education admissions to qualified adults who want to enter or continue a program of postsecondary education. The program also provides services to improve the financial and economic literacy of participants. An important objective is to counsel participants

on financial aid options, including basic financial planning skills, and to assist in the application process. The goal of the TRIO EOC program is to increase the number of adult participants who enroll in postsecondary education institutions.

TRIO EOC services are especially designed for students who are limited in English proficiency, students from groups that are traditionally underrepresented in postsecondary education, students with disabilities, students who are homeless, students who are in foster care or aging out of the foster care system, or are otherwise disconnected students.

A TRIO EOC participant shared how she is thankful her story did not end with the harsh realities of her childhood. TRIO EOC staff became her family to her and taught her to believe in herself. The encouragement she received from TRIO EOC, coupled with her hard work, has led her to a successful career in academia. She is forever grateful for the belief Trio EOC instilled in her and she is committed to helping other people achieve their dreams.



Accessibility Resources



Bus Subsidy - Transportation



Care Team - Case Management and Referral Services



Career Services



Childcare Assistance



Collegiate Recovery Program



Emergency Financial Support



First Generation Support



Fitness Center and Gymnasium



Food Pantry

## Random Acts of Kindness Grant Relieves Pressure for Student in Crisis

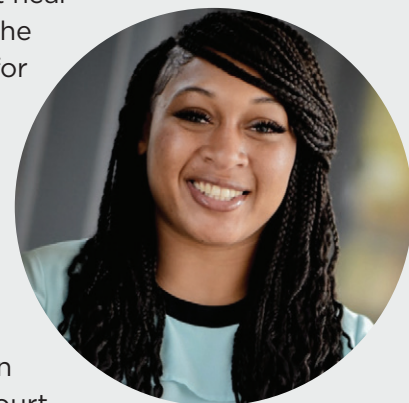
College isn't easy for anyone, but for a single mom with three children who is determined to get her bachelor's degree, a full-time class schedule can be particularly challenging.

In May, Australia Ford will graduate from Minneapolis College with an Associate of Arts degree in communication studies focused on creative writing. Through the College's Pathways option she will transfer to Metro State, where she is enrolled in the journalism program.

When she started college, Australia Ford held a job and received financial aid, but for the past two semesters, she has paid her tuition through scholarships.

"I ended up having to take a step back from working to focus on my kids and my family dynamic," she said.

Two of her three children, a two-year-old daughter and a three-year-old son, live with her in an apartment near campus as part of the Jeremiah Program for single mothers. Her 11-year-old son had been living in Chaska with his father and going to school there while the family's custody case was in process in family court.



Then she received a phone call: her ex was to enter chemical dependency treatment and her elder son would come to live with her. There was no time to plan. She simply had to make it work, and she wasn't sure how.

# around ports at apolis ege



Housing  
Navigation



Outreach to  
Students in Need



Parent  
Center



Personal  
Wellness  
Counseling



Resource  
and Referral  
Center



Student Health  
Clinic



Student Leadership  
Opportunities



Student Life, Clubs,  
and Activities



United Way  
211



Veteran  
Support

“I was totally grateful, eager, and excited for my son to be back home, but I didn’t know where I was going to pull from financially to support us,” she said.

Ford began driving her son from Minneapolis to Chaska every day so he could stay in the same school—a routine that added at least two hours of driving to an already packed daily schedule. Gas for the car was an unplanned expense, as was extra food, bedding, and personal care products for a growing pre-teen boy.

Instead of dropping out of school, Ford turned to Student Services.

“I met with outreach coordinator Elma Osmanovic about what my family was experiencing, and she said I should apply for a one-time Random Act of Kindness grant. I didn’t know that was available to me. They also offered options for food assistance and child care,” she said.

Ford received her grant by check within days of filling out a short, simple application. The

grant covered the unplanned expenses of transportation, food and personal items for her son’s integration into the family home, enabling continuity and stability for the family.

Ford described the feeling of receiving the Random Act of Kindness grant: “It relieved stress for me because instead of trying to figure out where I was going to be able to pull from financially to support our needs, I was able to stay focused and dedicated to my school work. Minneapolis College has definitely blessed my family,” she said.

The Minneapolis College Foundation is dedicated to limiting the financial burden students face while pursuing an education through scholarships and Random Act of Kindness grants providing emergency assistance to students who are experiencing a financial crisis. The grants may cover costs like books, school supplies, transportation, childcare—any expense that may interrupt a student’s education.

## Alumni Spotlight

### Christian Huble – Finding Stability and Being Seen

A non-traditional, first-generation student, Christian Huble went from three jobs to one and quadrupled his income when he graduated from Metro State University. He credits his solid collegiate start to Minneapolis College where he earned an Associate of Arts degree in philosophy and received support from numerous people and resources across the college. Now, he gives back to the place where he started.

It was the fall of 2018 when 26-year-old Christian Huble received a recommendation from the U of M to start his academic journey at Minneapolis College. He took the advice and immediately felt at home in what he describes as a vibrant, organic, trauma-informed community. Once on campus, Christian could be found engaging in school, student senate and several student clubs while balancing three jobs just to stay afloat. Initially, it wasn't easy. A new PTSD diagnosis related to being back in school and other health challenges created roadblocks. He accessed several campus resources including counseling, the food pantry, and a Random Acts of Kindness grant to help him move through the challenges he was facing. He found stability and felt seen for the first time.

When he landed himself an on-campus work-study with Patrick Troup in the Office of Equity & Inclusion, he became involved in myriad projects. "I assisted the College in writing a multi-campus collaborative grant for \$250,000 to support the trauma-informed work of the campus and co-founded and consulted for a student voices project. Here, he honed a love for storytelling and a commitment and belief in the students at Minneapolis College.

"Minneapolis College transformed my world," said Christian, who graduated Phi Theta Kappa without debt and is on the fast-track to leadership within the community. "It put me on a trajectory to succeed." In fact,



Christian's first salaried job out of college was the Student Activities Coordinator at Minneapolis College.

Today, Christian works at the Downtown Council helping organize large events to create a vibrant downtown. Staying connected to the College has always been important to Christian and he can be seen working on campus weekly. He is also taking a video production class to stay connected and focus on lifelong learning.

Christian strives to be someone who creates opportunities for others. Evidence of this has been in his fundraising efforts and donations to the College during Give to the Max Day. "I felt safe to be myself on campus, tell my story and show myself to the world," said Christian. "I am comfortable being my authentic self in spaces where historically I've felt unaccepted. Now, I'm proud to give back to the college that gave me a solid start."



## Alumni Spotlight

# Christopher Bates - Taking Time to Grow at Minneapolis College

After moving to Minneapolis from Gary, Indiana, 10-year-old Christopher Bates found Minneapolis College in his peripheral vision, attending middle school directly across the street. Intending on becoming a police officer, Christopher secured a job as a security guard after graduating from South High School. He didn't feel ready for a four-year college and recalled the opportunities students met at Minneapolis College and followed suit.

Once on campus, Christopher received encouragement, support, and guidance as he strived toward his personal, academic, and career goals. He took time to grow, developed a love of learning and a passion for law. "Not everyone is a fast bloomer," said Christopher. "Some people need extra support which is what Minneapolis College offered to me. As a result, I was able to complete my generals and discover the path I wanted to pursue."

Christopher transferred to Hamline University and completed his Bachelor of Arts degree in criminal justice and legal studies. He went directly to Hamline Law School, intending to pursue a career in the FBI, however, an internship with a Ramsey County Attorney's Office ignited a love for the work and placed him on an impressive trajectory. Christopher's dedication to the field was evident as he commuted three hours a day to his first job with the McLeod County Attorney's Office where he learned law from the inside out.

Moving on to the City of Minneapolis, Christopher spent 10 years serving as a prosecutor specializing in domestic violence cases. Historical violence within his own family system led to his interest in supporting

victims and his strong skill base enabled him to empathically serve as the liaison for the Minneapolis Police Department's Domestic Violence Unit.

Currently, Christopher is an Assistant County Attorney at Ramsey County's Civil Division, serving on the health and wellness and administrative appeals teams. He is active within his community, involved with the Boys & Girls Club, mock trial teams, and the PTO for his daughter's elementary school.

Christopher stays connected to Minneapolis College and encourages family to consider community college as an affordable place to obtain help from dedicated staff and faculty, find their passion, and become the best people they can be.



## Alumni Spotlight

### Michael Dorsey – Sharing a Wealth of Knowledge

Michael Dorsey grew up in Charleston, S.C., graduating from high school early at age 16. Since his family didn't understand the process of accessing college, and Michael Dorsey was focused on building his future, he enrolled and attended the Breckenridge Job Corps Center in Morganfield, KY. The Breckenridge Center resembled a self-contained city with more than 200 buildings including a hospital, fire department, and police force. There, he focused on honing his business clerical skills.

After completing his technical education with that Job Corps., Dorsey moved to Minneapolis to attend an advanced Job Corps., the Brotherhood of Railway and Airline Clerks (BRAC), living at the YMCA at 9th and LaSalle in downtown Minneapolis. At BRAC, Dorsey received focused training in transportation and clerical, completing the program in November of 1983.

An upset in the transportation industry shifted the trajectory of Dorsey's career and he found himself looking for a new opportunity. Upon the recommendation of a friend who was aware of his typing efficiency, he applied to and was hired as a wire operator in the bond department at Dain, a business focusing on the purchase, sale, and brokerage of securities. Dorsey absorbed the environment and took notice of the success being achieved by his colleagues. When he asked how he could advance in the field of finance, he was directed to obtain a college degree.

#### IN PURSUIT OF AN EDUCATION

Dorsey began his collegiate journey at Minneapolis College in 1986, while he continued working. The College was an easy walk from work at Dain and provided a welcoming environment and a student population that, like him, was highly-focused and skewed slightly older. After graduating from Minneapolis College, he studied at the University of Minnesota's Carlson School where he achieved a bachelor's degree in finance.

Dorsey always attended school in the evening so he could balance his studies alongside his career while helping to raise a family.

After graduating, Dorsey chose to take an opportunity at Norwest (now Wells Fargo) where he worked as a trader for 17 years. In 2015, the company's trading function moved to Charlotte, N.C., and he didn't want to make the move at that time given he had just started pursuing his master's degree at the Carlson School in the fall of 2014. Dorsey had worked 10-12 hours per day for 31 years and had an array of other investments, so he had the luxury of retiring in 2015. He celebrated a successful career by spending three years traveling to 29 countries on six continents with his wife Marilyn.



#### SHARING A WEALTH OF KNOWLEDGE

The Dorseys' world travels were halted by the COVID-19 pandemic and he and his wife returned to their home in Golden Valley, MN. When Dorsey began asking himself, "what now," his son-in-law, WBA World Welterweight Champion Jamal "Shango" James, invited him to consider joining him on the Minneapolis College Foundation Board of Directors. The idea intrigued Dorsey and he toured the college and proceeded through the vetting and onboarding process of the Foundation.

# Alumni at a Glance

## DEGREES, DIPLOMAS, AND CERTIFICATIONS AWARDED IN 2023

744 Associate Degrees  
486 Certificates  
107 Diplomas

## TOP PROGRAMS BY DECLARED MAJOR

Liberal Arts (AA)  
Pre-Nursing (AA)  
Business Management  
Psychology Transfer Pathway  
Business Transfer Pathway

## TOP FIVE EMPLOYERS OF MINNEAPOLIS COLLEGE GRADUATES

Fairview  
Hennepin County  
Graco  
ACR Homes  
AmeriCorps

## AVERAGE EARNINGS WITH AN ASSOCIATE DEGREE FIVE YEARS AFTER GRADUATION

\$46,200

## ALUMNI WORKING IN THE FIELDS WITH THE HIGHEST EARNING SALARIES

Computer Programming  
Allied Health  
HVAC-R  
Air Transportation

## ECONOMIC IMPACT

\$322.2 million in economic impact annually

\$99.9 million in alumni impact generated annually

\$26.4 million in state and local revenue

2,477 jobs supported and sustained

As Dorsey became involved in Minneapolis College events, he met Charles Watson, African American Empowerment Coordinator in the Equity and Inclusion Division. Charles Watson learned about Dorsey's knowledge in the financial industry and quickly recognized what an asset he could be to the student population.

"I always encourage students to think about their legacy and how they can make a difference, leaving the world a better place than they found it," said Watson, who first thought about his own legacy at summer camp in New Hampshire many years before.

"I invited Michael to share his expertise and teach financial literacy to our students in the summer of 2023. I believe financial literacy is a justice intervention and an antidote to intergenerational poverty. Michael is an example of an alum that graduates, goes out and builds knowledge and a successful career, and returns to their educational roots to share their expertise and plant seeds for the next generation."

Passionate about financial literacy, Dorsey developed a curriculum that he delivered to students at the College focused on budgeting, credit, investments, and future state planning. "I have honest, frank, and succinct conversations with the students so they understand the pros and cons of a financial system that can swallow them up if they don't understand it," said Dorsey. "It's important to me to share my knowledge. After all, we shouldn't take it all with us."

In January of 2023, Dorsey extended his commitment to the College and joined the Minneapolis College Foundation Board of Directors. He was quickly recruited to the finance committee where he leads meaningful conversations, lending his vast knowledge of the financial markets to support the College in building assets so they can give more to their community.

# 2023 Foundation Highlights

## POWER OF DREAMS BREAKFAST

This annual fall event highlights our gratitude for our generous scholarship donors. It's a time for scholarship recipients to meet the donors who are helping make their dream of a college degree possible. It brings alumni back to campus. It recognizes and congratulates current scholarship

recipients for their accomplishments. It is a celebration of the entire Minneapolis College community including students, alumni, donors, the Foundation Board of Directors, faculty and staff, and community partners who make scholarships possible for Minneapolis College students.



## **GIVE FROM THE HEART SUSTAINABLE GIVING CHALLENGE**

Each February, the Minneapolis College Foundation challenges faculty, staff, alumni, and friends to consider the impact of sustained giving. Contributions through payroll deduction, monthly, and planned giving are emphasized during this annual campaign. These donations provide a steady, dependable stream of support for students, which helps them weather life's ups and downs and stay in school.



**“I want to support our potential students who wish to improve their lives through education or training.”**

**James Splett, Building Maintenance Supervisor**



**“I want to be a part of supporting students to achieve their academic goals and career dreams.”**

**Hope Doerner, School of Education and Public & Human Service Faculty**



**“I believe in the power of education to change our students’ lives and the lives of everyone in their families.”**

**Vincent A. Thomas, Academic Dean**

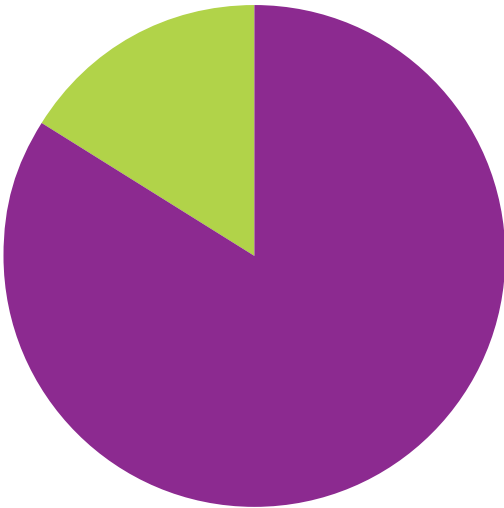
## PRESIDENT'S GIVING CIRCLE

Annual donors at the leadership level of \$500 or more are recognized each spring at the President's Giving Circle event. This essential and growing group of donors now stands nearly 200 strong. Many donors give through payroll deduction, monthly credit card payment, donor-advised funds, or retirement plans. The bigger this circle, the broader our community impact.



## 2023 Revenue

### Minneapolis College Foundation



Contributions and Grants \$993,130

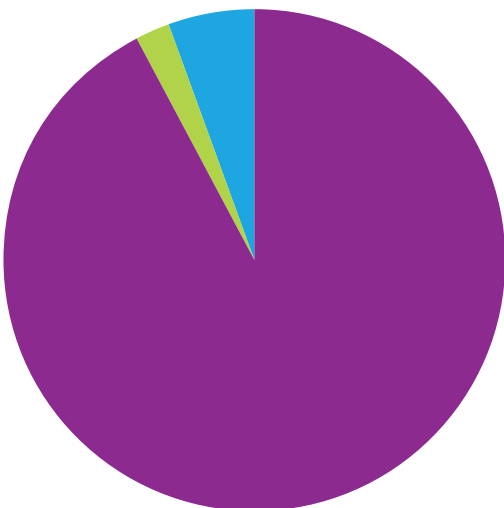
Investment Income \$187,467

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**Total Revenue \$1,180,597**

## 2023 Expenses

### Minneapolis College Foundation



Contributions and Grants \$1,270,211

Fundraising \$33,475

Operational Expenses \$72,998

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**Total Expenses \$1,376,684**

# 2023 Donors

## More than \$100,000

Anonymous

## \$50,000 - \$99,999

Deloitte Foundation  
Delta Airlines  
Kopp Family Foundation

## \$25,000 - \$49,999

Isora Foundation  
Jeffrey Kahrmann and  
Eileen Whelan  
Janet and Richard Metcalf  
Open Your Heart to the  
Hungry and Homeless  
Carolyn Shrewsbury  
Marcia Sullivan  
Fred and Maureen  
Williamson  
Xcel Energy Foundation

## \$10,000 - \$24,999

Basilica of St. Mary  
Delta Airlines Georgia  
Graco Foundation  
Johnstech International  
Bob and Margaret Marshall  
Pentair Foundation  
Sean Sweetnam and  
Becky Leichtling  
U.S. Bank Foundation  
Joanne Wandrei

## \$5,000 - \$9,999

3M Foundation  
Gene Haas Foundation  
Headwaters Foundation  
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Javier and Azalea Henao  
Nancy Miller  
Dr. Siobahn Morgan  
Sharon Pierce and  
Michael Evans  
Jason Sands  
Linda and John Satorius  
U.S. Bank  
Yale Mechanical

## \$1,000 - \$4,999

Anonymous  
ACR Homes / ACR  
Healthcare  
Heidi Aldes  
Assistance League of  
Minneapolis / St. Paul  
David and Rebecca  
Babcock  
Baja Construction  
Remodeling  
Margot and Chris Barry  
Comcast

Michael Dorsey  
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The Hartford  
The Head Family  
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Don and Florence Ostrom  
Michael and Katey Pelican  
Polar Semiconductor  
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Dr. Josephine Reed-Taylor  
Bryon and Paula Reinhart  
Christine and Tom Ruppert  
Amy Ryan and  
Harold Carroll  
Jack Sattel  
Bryan and Darlene Schmidt  
SEMI  
ServeMinnesota  
Standard Heating and  
Air Conditioning  
Joan Strand  
Ruth Thiel  
Dominic Venturo  
Kirsten Zerhusen

## \$100 - \$999

Anonymous  
Mary Kay Stranik and  
Mark Nammacher  
Lena Jones  
Kent Fritz-Smead  
Derrick and Christina  
Lindstrom  
Tom Williamson  
Dede Carr  
Ann Deiman-Thornton  
AJ and Michelle Lindell  
Becker-Boyer Family  
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Michael Javinsky-Wenzek  
Mains'I Services Inc  
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Jonathan Lofgren

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James Splett  
Ben Weng  
Dr. Michael G. Klug  
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and Engineers  
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Everett and Joyce Tollerud  
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Wadsworth  
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Lewis Courtney  
Cheryl Neudauer  
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Elizabeth Pauly  
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Martha and James  
McCartney  
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Debra Ward-Baker  
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Vickie C. Smith  
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AmazonSmile  
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Mike Ramerth  
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Andrea Saterbak  
Laverne Schleicher  
Kim Schold  
Marjorie and Robert Slanga  
Pat Stearns  
Brenda Stine  
Reede Webster  
Anna Wetterling  
Ann and Steven Wolff  
Ralph Wyman

#### Up to \$100

Anonymous  
ACES  
Airport Foundation MSP  
Lauren Allar  
Amazon  
Amnicon Adventures  
and Retreats  
Ampact  
Elaine Anderson  
Animal Rights Coalition  
Ra'Essa As-Sidiq  
Patrick and Susanne  
Ballard  
Barbara and James  
Moorhead  
Gail Barduson  
Ally Bauerle  
Joshua Baumgart  
Matthew Beachy  
Connie Benson  
Big Brothers Big Sisters  
Twin Cities

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Elizabeth Blake  
Jeanne Blasena  
Ben Bowman  
The Brand Lab  
Thomas Bretl  
Rosemary Brown  
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Ann and Brian Bunce  
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Marsden Bldg  
Maintenance, LLC  
Minneapolis Police  
Department  
Minnesota Department  
of Human Services  
Diana Mitchell  
Michelle Montoya  
Maryellen Mueller  
Earl Myers  
Ed Newman  
Michael Noble-Olson  
Becky Nordin  
Northwestern Mutual  
Minneapolis  
Marie Olsen  
Holly Oppegard  
Options Minnesota  
Debra Paige  
Park Avenue Center  
Jeffrey Paurus  
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Megan Pearson  
Dawn Pepper  
Leannette Perez  
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Marquetta Turner  
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Pahoua Vang  
Michael Varani  
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Theresa Schiller  
Mel Williams  
Barbara Wright  
Steve and Cyndi Wright  
Mariah Yelle  
Tony Zahler

## 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 Beverly Wadsworth, [beverly.wadsworth@minneapolis.edu](mailto:beverly.wadsworth@minneapolis.edu) or **612.659.6820**.

[minneapolis.edu/give](https://minneapolis.edu/give)

## Contact **Advancement**



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Director of Advancement  
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**612-659-6773**



**SUE EATON**  
Advancement and  
Foundation Services  
Manager  
[sue.eaton@  
minneapolis.edu](mailto:sue.eaton@minneapolis.edu)  
**612-659-6313**

## 2024-25 Events and Activities

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

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

- Fall 2024 Welcome Week
- Power of Dreams Scholarship Breakfast
- Student Life Activities
- Fall and Spring Open House Events
- Mentorship
- Food Pantry
- Middle School College and Career Days
- U.S. Bank Hackathon and Artificial Intelligence Events
- School of Design and the Arts Spring Showcase
- President's Giving Circle Reception

## About Minneapolis College

We're one of the most diverse college campuses in Minnesota. More than 70 percent of our 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



**9,131**  
passionate students  
enrolled annually



**70%** of students identify  
as being members of  
Indigenous or communities  
of color, international, low  
income or first generation



**63%**  
of students receive  
financial aid



**22:1**  
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.



**MINNEAPOLIS  
COLLEGE®**

**A Member of  
Minnesota State**

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