Dear Friends:

We have good news to share. Thanks to your generosity and the generosity of so many others, hundreds of students at private colleges are thriving and working towards their baccalaureate degrees.

The students need this support. And the whole state needs our graduates: they contribute to the vitality of our state by powering our economy with their talent and by sustaining our democracy and communities with their civic engagement.

Your commitment is critical to sustaining access to a high-quality private college education for all students. We are so grateful for your generous support of our students through your gift to the Minnesota Private College Fund. Thank you for your commitment.

Sincerely,

Mary Dana Hinton
President, College of Saint Benedict
Board Chair, Minnesota Private College Fund
and Minnesota Private College Council

Paul Cerkvenik
President, Minnesota Private College Fund
and Minnesota Private College Council
### Member Institutions

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### Key Facts

Here are a few facts to remember about our 17 nonprofit colleges and universities:

#### Excellence

**1st**

Rank of our four-year graduation rate in Minnesota, compared to the University of Minnesota and Minnesota State universities.

#### Diversity

- **26%**
  - Share of students of color at Minnesota Private College Fund member institutions.

#### Access

- **26%**
  - Share of Minnesota students from families with a household income under $40,000.

#### Talent Attraction

- **>10,500**
  - Number of undergrads from other states who are enrolled at our colleges. (That’s more than either the University of Minnesota or Minnesota State universities.)

#### Fund Highlights

When you focus on the Minnesota Private College Fund and what we’re able to do:

- **>300**
  - Number of scholarships the Fund awards each year.

- **77%**
  - Share of all Fund scholarship awards received by students of color.

- **300,000**
  - Number of our alumni living in Minnesota.
Keeshawn Aleksuk may have enrolled at the University of St. Thomas to play football, but he stayed to study business. “Because St. Thomas has such a legacy behind its program, it was a no brainer for me to study something in business,” he says.

That something turned out to be real estate, a discipline the Minnetonka, MN, junior first became intrigued with while doing construction cleanup during high school. His inspiration? The transformed 1930s Armory building in downtown Minneapolis, for which his grandmother did interior design. “Seeing that building go from nothing to what it is today” was an exciting experience, says Aleksuk, who plans to eventually work in commercial real estate.

Meanwhile, along with taking a full load of classes, he works 30 hours a week as a housekeeper at Town and Country golf club and as a contract manual laborer. Of the latter he says, “It’s definitely a good workout.”

Back when Aleksuk was touring colleges, he wisely determined to “make sure I would love my school even if I didn’t play football.” After his freshman year, the former running back dropped out of football, but remained at a school where he “loved the atmosphere.”

“Student-faculty relationships are so much more emphasized at St. Thomas,” says Aleksuk, “which allows me to connect with the material, ask questions of the professor, and engage with my peers.”
Scholarship Recipient

**Manuela Ponce ’19**

Concordia University, St. Paul  
Major in Biology  
U.S. Bank Foundation Scholarship

“I have four siblings and I’m the first person in my family to attend college,” Ponce says. “My parents are helping me pay for school, but having this scholarship has relieved a lot of our stress in figuring out how to cover the expenses.”

Manuela Ponce knew Concordia University, St. Paul would be a “good fit for me” with its small class sizes. “Here the teachers actually know who you are when you send them an email,” she says. “You can talk with them without explaining every time which of their classes you’re in.”

She is also grateful for the college’s career services center, which she has already used for help with a resume and cover letter. “I don’t know exactly what job I can find after graduation, but the people in the career center are always open to talking with me about it,” she says.

Ponce chose biology because she likes science and enjoys learning about the human body. “One of my favorite classes was human gross anatomy—that was really fun,” she says. “All the physiology courses, both human and animal, have been very interesting.”

Working in the dining hall as a cashier has helped with the bills, but it is the U.S. Bank Foundation Scholarship that has made the big difference, says Ponce. U.S. Bank scholars must be students of color with demonstrated financial need, good grades, and a home base in a state served by U.S. Bank.

“I have four siblings and I’m the first person in my family to attend college. My parents are helping me pay for school, but having this scholarship has relieved a lot of our stress in figuring out how to cover the expenses,” says Ponce.

“Growing up, I saw how hard it was to get a good job without a college degree. I know that getting this degree will make my life easier.”
Scholarship Recipient

John Nguyen ’20
St. Olaf College
Major in Vocal Music Education
Wenger Foundation Scholarship

Nguyen will also long remember an interim class he took in music and social justice, which taught him, he says, an important lesson: “That music can be a means for social change.”

St. Olaf was “really my only option ever,” says John Nguyen, who was born in Northfield to parents who had met at the college. He also spent his first six summers living at St. Olaf while his mom and dad worked for the college’s TRIO program. “My aunts went there, too, and now my sister is a freshman here—it’s pretty much the only school I ever looked at. It’s a family affair.”

That said, it was also a perfect fit for the Crystal, MN, senior, who “knew I wanted to do something with music.” Along with taking vocal music education classes, Nguyen has sung for three years in the Chapel Choir, serves as disc jockey for a weekly college radio show, and runs the radio station’s music production studio.

Indeed, he isn’t certain if he will pursue a career in music education or production, or possibly combine the two. “I know I’ll teach somewhere,” he says. “whether it’s at a school or offering private lessons. I’ve done a lot of that already.” Along with his vocal chops, Nguyen plays piano, guitar, bass, and ukulele.

After graduation, one of his first steps will be to apply for an online master’s program in music production through Boston’s Berklee College of Music.

Meanwhile, as he looks forward to his final semester—when he’ll do student teaching in the Twin Cities—he’s trying to balance his educational and musical commitments with jobs at the IT help desk, as an assistant to a retired St. Olaf professor, and as the remote website manager for several Twin Cities accounting firms.

Nguyen will take with him memories of a college that is “a special community,” and at which he made friends with so many different interests and majors. He will also long remember an interim class he took in music and social justice, which taught him, he says, an important lesson: “That music can be a means for social change.”
Scholarship Recipient

Mariam Sharpless ’20
St. Catherine University
Majors in Economics, and Women and International Development;
Minor in Communications Studies
Securian Foundation Scholarship

“It’s the grants and aid, the scholarships like this one, that made college possible for me,” she says. “Thanks for giving me a chance.”

“I grew up on welfare,” says Minneapolis native Mariam Sharpless. “To go from North Minneapolis to a school like St. Kate’s—I thought, this place looks like a castle! It seemed amazing for a kid like me.”

Because her parents cannot help her financially, Sharpless is especially grateful for the Securian Foundation Scholarship, which is allowing her to complete her economics degree while taking on fewer loans. Securian Foundation Scholarships are awarded to students in the business field who demonstrate academic strength and financial need. “This directly affects my life,” she says. “I can eat more, sleep more, and focus on school more.”

The schoolwork Sharpless focuses on most is economics, a major she realized was “not just about far away Wall Street stuff but also about welfare and community development and social issues. Taking an economics and social issues class showed me how economics directly applies to people.”

While on campus, Sharpless has done peer mentoring for the multicultural office, worked as a research assistant for an economics professor, and served as an RA in the residence halls. She also works 30 hours a week off campus as a personal care assistant.

She was drawn to St. Kate’s for its liberal arts emphasis, its Catholic values, its smaller class sizes, and its all-women environment. “In my senior economics seminars, all my classmates are intellectual women majoring in economics,” she says. “If I was at the U of M, that same class would be mostly men.”

It was a woman—her grandmother—who encouraged her to pursue higher education when others told her it wasn’t necessary. After college she hopes to continue her education, earning either a law degree or a master’s degree in business. “It’s the grants and aid, the scholarships like this one, that made college possible for me,” she says. “Thanks for giving me a chance.”
Scholarship Recipient

Kimberly Krattley ’20
Concordia College, Moorhead
Major in Business; Minor in German
Phillips Scholars Program

“Krattley wants donors to know that “their willingness to give is so appreciated by students like me. And someday, when I am in a position to do so, I will pay it forward because of people like them.”

When Kimberly Krattley was a Hopkins, MN, high school senior, she didn’t know that she could be admitted to multiple colleges. “Being a first-generation college student, I thought that each student was accepted to just one college. So, when I was accepted to Concordia, I assumed that was where I would go. When I got acceptances from the University of Minnesota and St. Cloud State the next week, I thought, wait a minute, this doesn’t make any sense!”

It was confusing experiences like this one that prompted Krattley—to then a college junior—to develop the website Collegeconnected.net, which explains things like types of colleges, financial aid, and the admission process. She created this website as her community service project for the Phillips Scholars Program.

The Jay and Rose Phillips Family Foundation of Minnesota awards $16,500 over two years to five Minnesota private college students dedicated to community service, including support for summer projects like Krattley’s.

“I would love for my website to reach a wider audience and help as many students as possible,” she says.

Concordia has turned out to be the “perfect fit for me,” says Krattley. She appreciates its strong language program, urban location, and manageable size. Small college benefits became even clearer to Krattley when she took a few classes at North Dakota State University. “At small liberal arts schools you have so much better connections with professors,” she says.

Krattley has taken full advantage of Concordia, playing lacrosse and rugby, joining the German Club, and enrolling in a mentorship program that led to an internship at a surgery center in Fargo. Her ultimate goal? To earn a master’s degree in health care administration.

Meanwhile, she wants donors to know that “their willingness to give is so appreciated by students like me. And someday, when I am in a position to do so, I will pay it forward because of people like them.”
About the Fund

Business leaders created the Minnesota Private College Fund in 1951. They were seeking a way to assist private colleges and support student access to a high-quality education.

Since its inception 68 years ago, the Fund has raised more than $91 million. Every dollar raised goes directly to member institutions and their students, augmenting the funds that the colleges are able to raise.

The Fund raises money for two purposes:

- General operating support pays for books, lab equipment, computers, utilities, maintenance and other core needs.
- Need-based scholarships help students from low- and middle-income families afford a quality college education.

**Pooled scholarships**

Pooled scholarships are a tool that many donors use to address emerging scholarship needs. Sponsored by a collection of donors who contribute at varying levels, these scholarships are awarded directly through campus financial aid offices. The options include:

- Access & Equity Pooled Scholarship — for students of color, new Americans and first-generation students;
- Galileo Pooled Scholarship — for students studying the STEM disciplines of science, technology, engineering or mathematics; and
- Minnesota Scholars Fund Scholarship — for students from Minnesota.

**Named scholarships**

Named scholarships are another option. Donors interested in establishing a named scholarship make a minimum annual contribution of $17,000, with awards then being made to students at all of our member institutions.

“This is all about students and ensuring they have the best options open to them. Private colleges are focused on ensuring students thrive and succeed — they make such a difference. So we in the business and foundation community need to do what we can to keep this kind of high-quality education available to everyone. And gifts to the Fund do just that.”

— Ann Houser
Chair, fundraising committee, Minnesota Private College Fund
Ann Houser Coaching and Consulting

Fiscal Year 2019 Report

Minnesota’s Private Colleges are the grateful beneficiaries of the generosity of 124 donors whose commitments to the Fund in fiscal year 2019 totaled $1,630,786, the highest total of the past sixteen years.

This was distributed to the member institutions as designated by donors, in the form of more than $145,000 in operating support and over 300 student scholarships.

It is especially encouraging to note that five new donors made gifts to the Fund, six lapsed donors resumed giving, and 22 others were able to provide increases over their previous gifts.

In 2018-2019 we also saw $688,159 in gifts and pledges toward future campaigns. The Boldt Company, the Ciresi Walburn Foundation for Children, John and Karen Meslow, The Jay & Rose Phillips Family Foundation of Minnesota, and Western Bank all provided future scholarship support. In addition, the Helen Harrington Charitable Trust continued to provide one of the Fund’s largest gifts of unrestricted operating dollars each year.

“This Foundation has been supporting the Minnesota Private College Fund for over 50 years, and nearly 30 years of that through the Phillips Scholars Program. Just as Jay and Rose Phillips lived their lives in service to their community, we are pleased to support emerging leaders who want to explore community service in a deeper way and make the kind of difference they would like to see in their communities.”

— Patrick Troska
President, The Jay & Rose Phillips Family Foundation of Minnesota
Donors of Distinction

These donors have made the largest donations this fiscal year. We welcome their critical support, which allows us to make a real difference for our colleges and students.

50+ Year Donors

Many donors support private higher education for the long haul. Year after year, they remain steadfast, consistently at our side. In fact, for a growing number, the commitment has endured for 50 or even 60 years.

Generations of students have been helped by the generosity of the donors who have met this milestone. The following donors have been with us for more than 50 years:

- Xcel Energy 67 years
- North Shore Bank 64 years
- Otter Tail Corporation 63 years
- BNSF Railway Foundation 62 years
- Merchants Bank 62 years
- WNB Financial 61 years
- Faegre Baker Daniels Foundation 60 years
- Federated Insurance Companies 60 years
- Goodin Company 60 years
- The Graco Foundation 59 years
- Horton Inc. 59 years
- Smyth Companies 59 years
- Groves Foundation 58 years
- Securian Foundation 56 years
- Emerson 55 years
- The Medtronic Foundation 55 years
- Wenger Foundation 54 years
- The Jay & Rose Phillips Family Foundation of Minnesota 52 years
- The State Bank of Faribault 52 years
- National Checking Company 51 years
- Western Bank 51 years
- Winona Heating and Ventilating Co. 51 years
Donors

We appreciate the generosity of our donors. These gifts make such a difference, helping make a private college education possible for our students.

Recognizing gifts received July 2018 to June 2019

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Crescendo Walburn Foundation 2
The Jay and Rose Phillips 53
Family Foundation of Minnesota 52

Founder’s Circle
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The Council of Independent 42
Colleges through its CIC/UPS Educational Endowment Fund and its First Opportunity
Partners program and its CIC/SAGE Scholars program

Scholar’s Circle
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Wenger Foundation 54

Benefactor
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Margaret Rivers Fund 30

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