



ENDOWMENT REPORT

January 1, 2020 — December 31, 2020

 MINNESOTA STATE UNIVERSITY MANKATO
FOUNDATION





SHARED STORIES

When 75-year-old Susan Clayton looked into the Zoom screen and met her scholarship's first beneficiary, she recognized a certain look, a look she herself carried decades ago.

"I could see in her eyes what I had been feeling: 'How am I going to pull this off?'" she said.

On the other side was Jennifer James, 35, a divorced mother of three who just months ago had no idea how she would be able to finish her degree—a situation identical to Clayton's more than 50 years earlier.

Clayton received her degree in special education from Minnesota State Mankato in 1967, thanks in part to the Jane Neubert Scholarship that she received during her final year. She, too, was raising three children as a single mother at the time.

Clayton recently established the Susan's Special Education Family Endowment to support students studying special education. James received word last spring that she was its first recipient. Up to that point, she had been juggling retail work, childcare, schooling and a tutoring role with Reading Corps, a literacy program that prompted her interest in special education.

James graduated in December. The effect of Clayton's scholarship, she said, was tremendous.

"I could concentrate on school, concentrate on my education and concentrate on my relationship with my kids," she said.

Given the identical stories, the online meeting was emotional for both Clayton and James.

"She has so much experience and has touched so many lives," James said. "That's what I hope to be."

"It was an amazing amount of symmetry there," Clayton said. "I told her how proud I am of her, because she needs to know this is the start of it."

2020 HIGHLIGHTS

13 NEW endowments were created

294 UNIQUE scholarships supported by endowments

\$1.95 MILLION distributed for the 2020-2021 academic year

\$60,873,734* total value of endowment

*Includes Maverick, Meredith, quasi and all pooled funds

PART OF THE SOLUTION

Al Hanzal '80 and Pat Wanzek Hanzal '78 are establishing an endowment as a way of addressing, in their own way, racism in America—past and present.

A spring 2020 trip to the Legacy Museum and the National Memorial for Peace and Justice in Alabama prompted some soul-searching discussions about race and how their own schooling in Minnesota glossed over Black history in America.

On their return to their home in St. Paul, Al took note of a comment Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz made in a press conference after the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis. Walz mentioned the lack of Black students graduating colleges as educators. That resonated with the couple. “We said to ourselves, could we be part of the solution rather than the problem,” Al said.

So the couple is endowing the Hanzal-Wanzek Educational Scholarship for third- or fourth-year students of color studying education at Minnesota State Mankato. For the next three years, they'll be giving a \$2,000 scholarship, after which their endowment will be in place.

Pat and Al recognize that they've been privileged and that not everyone has had the same opportunities. “If we can help someone who doesn't have that same opportunity get a little bit ahead in the world, maybe we've done something,” Pat said.



MEETING THE NEEDS

The COVID-19 pandemic created new challenges for many students last spring—but it also created opportunities to turn generous planned gifts into meaningful support at exactly the right time.

Thanks to two alumni who named Minnesota State University, Mankato as a beneficiary in their respective wills, the Foundation was able to create the MavCares Student Emergency Endowment. The endowment directly supports the MAVCares Fund, which was established in 2017 to support lower-income students experiencing financial emergencies. In the past three years, the fund has helped many students remain enrolled and successfully reach graduation.

The two gifts that made this possible came from Thomas Granum '74 and Mylla Urban '63. Both had been long-time supporters of the University Achievement Fund, which allows the University to support priority initiatives as they emerge. Because both donors had shown an affinity for providing support where it was most needed, their gifts were combined to create the \$100,000 endowment for MavCares; remaining funds were also awarded as scholarships to students for the 2020-21 school year.

During the past year, \$84,129 in emergency grants was awarded in response to 144 student applications received. In addition, 25 students received \$1,500 scholarships to address outstanding balances that would have impacted their ability to continue toward their degree.

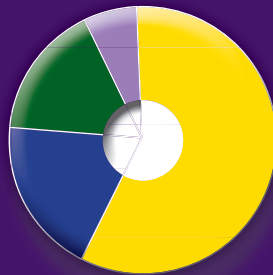




NEW INVESTMENT PARTNER

As of July 1, 2020, the Minnesota State University, Mankato Foundation's Outside Chief Investment Officer (OCIO) became Fund Evaluation Group (FEG). FEG has a nonprofit focus and an established track record, and will continue to ensure that our endowments are invested into perpetuity regardless of the market fluctuations. Our investment strategy allocations are extensively reviewed annually.

What Our Endowments Support



- Student Support - Scholarship
- Faculty Support
- Student Support - Non Scholarship
- Academic/Program/Athletic Support



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