



MINNESOTA STATE  
UNIVERSITY  
MANKATO

**The 2020 Minnesota  
State University,  
Mankato Foundation  
Impact Report**



# 2020 IMPACT REPORT

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This has been quite the year for both Minnesota State University, Mankato and its Foundation. Both have been put to the test in ways we never could have imagined. But thanks to the generosity of so many of you, we are finding new ways to thrive in these unusual times.

From the University perspective, we had to turn on a dime and transition our students to remote learning and our faculty and staff to working from home. Thanks to the dedication of our employees and the robust technology infrastructure we've built, we were able to make it work in a matter of weeks. And now, as we prepare for the Fall semester, we are again relying on our technological know-how to prepare for in-person, online and flexible learning options. We will be ready, whatever happens next.

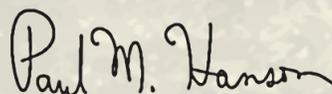
From the Foundation side, we found ourselves looking for ways to address new issues related to the pandemic. There was incredible student need, especially among the international student population. But thanks to the ongoing generosity of alumni and friends, we have been able to offer additional emergency grant funds, provide more scholarships and fill gaps for some of our international population.

We're not done dealing with the impact of COVID-19. But we're in this for the long haul, and we hope that you are too. As we work to make our campus as safe as possible for students, faculty and staff to return, we hope that you, too, are able to reduce your own personal risks and stay safe.

We appreciate your support of this great institution. Thank you for your generosity.



**Richard Davenport**, *President*,  
Minnesota State University, Mankato



**Paul M. Hanson**, *Chair*  
Minnesota State University,  
Mankato Foundation



# Maverick Generosity: It's a Given

Your generosity has helped Minnesota State University, Mankato navigate through one of the most challenging years in its 152-year history. That support has impacted students, faculty and staff in many ways. This report highlights some of the stories that donor support made possible.

The Minnesota State University, Mankato Foundation exists to enhance the University's ability to achieve its mission by encouraging and sustaining philanthropic support from alumni and friends. It was established in 1958 as a private, 501(c)(3), nonprofit organization dedicated to securing private gifts and grants that benefit students at Minnesota State University, Mankato.

 MINNESOTA STATE UNIVERSITY MANKATO  
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# Pandemic Response Supports Students





## Donors came through with emergency grant funds, scholarships and food donations.

During the early months of the coronavirus pandemic, donors gave nearly \$90,000 to the MavCares, Emergency Grant fund to help domestic, graduate and international students with unexpected expenses. In addition, two large gifts totaling \$121,000 were used to establish the University's first emergency grant fund endowment. An additional \$34,000 was donated for Fall 2020 scholarship support.

Of these gifts, more than \$40,000 was raised by faculty and staff of Minnesota State Mankato.

Campus Kitchen, the University's student-run hunger solution, closed out of caution when the campus was shut down in spring and summer. The neighboring Campus Cupboards, which was created to serve students, stayed open and saw a tremendous increase in donations that went to students. That organization's director, Gail Fox, said food donations totaled 622 pounds from January 1 to mid-March, and increased to 5,073 pounds from mid-March to mid-summer.

"'Once a Maverick, always a Maverick' means something more than just the words," said Jennifer Moore, director of annual giving. "It's a bond that people still have to this University."

*Read more about this story in the fall issue of Today or online at [today.mnsu.edu](https://today.mnsu.edu).*

*To learn more about the We Are in This Together Campaign, visit [engage.mnsu.edu/needs](https://engage.mnsu.edu/needs).*

# SCHOLARSHIP STATS

Scholarships: **845** Foundation-funded scholarships

Average award size:

**\$2,015**

The Foundation provided 845 scholarships for FY 2020. The average award was \$2,015 with the largest being \$14,000. Nearly 500 unique scholarship opportunities were funded through the Foundation by its generous donors.

Scholarship opportunities:

**489**



*Photo taken prior to pandemic and social distancing.*

# SCHOLARSHIPS SUPPORTED BY DONOR GIFTS

College of Education  
\$388,680

Admissions  
\$153,430

Athletics  
\$121,667

College of Arts  
& Humanities  
\$155,450

College of Social &  
Behavioral Science  
\$137,950

College of Allied  
Health & Nursing  
\$141,900

College of Science,  
Engineering &  
Technology \$270,850

College of Business  
\$238,450

Other  
\$191,445

Plus \$65,000 in emergency assistance to international students

**Grand total**  
**\$1.8 Million**

# ENDOWMENT STATS

Endowment value:

**\$54,256,025**

Amount of earnings used for scholarships:

**\$1.1 million**

Amount of earnings used for other aid:

**\$851,000**

Total amount distributed:

**\$1.9 million**

# 2020 GIVING

Number of donors: **5,506**  
Number of new donors: **901**

Total raised  
**\$10,865,256**





# Scholarship Surprises



It felt, Devon Minke said, like the world stopped.

He had been asked to meet via Zoom with his academic advisor to share his thoughts on the past year. He logged in and was ready to answer some questions.

But the meeting was not about his advisor. It was to inform Minke that he was the recipient of a \$22,000 scholarship to help fund his final two years at Minnesota State Mankato.

"It was amazing hearing that I'm not going to have to worry about financial burdens and just focus on my academic success," Minke said.



The University often selects a few students to be told about their scholarship awards in person. This year, the pandemic meant those notifications happened on Zoom—and their happy reactions could be recorded.

Kwakha Lynn Kiondo's first response was to shoot her fists into the air.

She had fretted about debt and expenses, and was worried she might not be able to finish school. She received a new \$3,000 scholarship established for students who work at campus radio station KMSU.

"It was like a miracle," she said. "A \$3,000 miracle."



# Helping Future Ag Innovators



*Students gather with Governor Walz in November 2019*

The Henze Ag Innovators Leadership Development Program, funded by longtime College of Business supporters Daryl and Karyl Henze, gives students hands-on experiences in agribusiness and food industries. Selected students meet with industry leaders, take facility tours and observe and develop leadership skills that will mark their own futures.

The Henzes have established accounting scholarships and provided financial support for the Center for Innovation & Entrepreneurship. When the Leadership program was curtailed because of the pandemic, the Henzes directed the unspent funds to scholarships for the students.

Daryl, who graduated in 1965, recalled the feeling of receiving a scholarship and the effects it had on him.

“It was not only the financial support but also the recognition that someone saw the value in me to make that investment,” he said.

*Read more about this story in the 2020 edition of InReview Magazine.*



*Students gather outside Cargill in February 2020.*

# DESIGNING A FATHER'S LEGACY



**G**eography professor George Stoops' real-world experiences informed his teaching and inspired generations of students at Minnesota State Mankato.

He brought his experiences as a city planner in Toledo, Ohio, as an owner of Rickway Carpet in Mankato and as an avid outdoor adventurer into the classroom.

When Stoops died in 2019, he left funds for the Geography Department in his will. His daughter Rebecca Wagner said she was delighted to learn that she and other family members could help direct how the funds were used. Some went to scholarships, and some to equipment for a student-driven research lab at the University.

"It turns out they needed this mastersizer, which would help figure out particle movement from land-

slides and earthquakes and it just felt like the right thing," Wagner said. "And so it put me in a situation of being able to think about what was important to him and tailor his gift the best way."

The state-of-the-art machine will be installed by fall semester.

"We are thrilled to have obtained the equipment," said assistant geography professor Mark Bowen, adding that the machine is industry standard and ideal for students. "It has provided the Earth Systems Lab with an important tool to better understand landscape change and impacts to the environment in Minnesota and elsewhere."

*Read more about this story in the fall issue of Today or online at [today.mnsu.edu](https://today.mnsu.edu).*

# A CREATIVE CONNECTION

The official title of the scholarship says it all: The Kathryn Cullen Gas and Groceries Scholarship.

Established in 2019, its namesake was a single mother of five—a writer and poet who attended Minnesota State Mankato for both undergraduate and graduate studies. As such, every dollar mattered.

When Cullen passed away in December of 2018, her five children wanted their mom’s love for writing to be commemorated with a scholarship, ideally one helping a single parent pursuing a writing degree.

Its first recipient could not have been more aligned with the intent. Holly Dodge was raising a child on her own as she pursued her degree in creative writing. The 2020 graduate has since bonded with Cullen’s family.

“This really means a lot to me,” Dodge said. “More than the gift of the scholarship and the relief that it provides financially, is the emotional encouragement and having them cheering me on.”

*Read more about this story in the fall issue of Today or online at [today.mnsu.edu](http://today.mnsu.edu).*





# INTERNATIONAL INTRIGUE

When his uncle in Nigeria died from COVID-19, Kayode Adiatu felt the terrible power of the disease rip at him emotionally and financially.

**K**ayode Adiatu's uncle had provided much of the financial support to attend Minnesota State Mankato. When he died, Adiatu faced fears of not making rent and having to get rid of his car, which he needed for his internship with the City of St. Peter. Without the internship, he wouldn't be able to earn his master's degree in urban planning.

Fortunately, he received donor-supported emergency grant money and is planning on finishing his studies in the fall.

Donations to the MavCares fund provided an emergency fund that Adiatu and other international students were able to access in order to pay bills and stay in school.





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