



# YOU SUPPORT OUR HEROES



NICOLET COLLEGE  
FOUNDATION

ANNUAL REPORT  
2019-2020



I struggled in school and dropped out in the eighth grade. Fortunately, a year later I realized I needed a good education. I am the first person in my family to ever graduate from high school. I am now working toward an accounting degree. I am dedicated to my studies to have a brighter future for myself, my family, and my community. Thank you for helping me on this journey.

Ana Edwardson  
Accounting



# you CHANGE LIVES in this UNPRECEDENTED TIME

When the coronavirus pandemic forced Nicolet College to change its delivery model to almost 100% online, many students were suddenly dealing with a major transition in their classes. Students across our communities were also facing unexpected financial hardship due to lost jobs or reduced work hours. Many students who never asked for help before, were now in the most challenging time of their lives.

Food. Internet for classes. Basic living expenses. These are all things everyone needs, but almost overnight, many Nicolet students didn't have the money for these necessities. That's why the Foundation created the Student Emergency Assistance Fund.

You responded. Your donations allowed the Nicolet College Foundation to help students right away. Thank you to all of our donors – alumni, community members, local organizations, and businesses, for making an immediate impact on students. Whether it is with emergency assistance, a scholarship, or other programs and services, you are changing lives.

We are pleased to introduce you to a few of the students you are helping in the Nicolet College Foundation's 2019-20 Annual Report. Throughout these pages you will see the students whose lives you are transforming. For that, we thank you.

Sincerely,

Sally Mode, Nicolet College Foundation Board President

Heather Schallock, Executive Director

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you provide

# CERTAINTY in UNCERTAIN TIMES

“

This scholarship will help me tremendously while I'm in school and living on my own, especially in a time like this. The pandemic had me worried about how I was going to pay for school since work has been slower this year. This scholarship relieved some of those worries and I'm so grateful for that. I hope that one day I'll have the opportunity to give back to my community in ways like this.

**Sam Caudle**

Information Technology – Computer Support Specialist



Sam lives in Minocqua and graduated from Lakeland Union High School in 2017. That same year, he enrolled at Nicolet College and intended to pursue a degree in radiography. "Academically, he was one of the strongest students I have seen," explained one of his radiography instructors. "He was eager to learn and is motivated to do well." However, like many students exploring their career paths, Sam felt pulled in another direction.

Sam has a love of computers that started when he was a child. He would spend hours building his own computers and learning how to make his own repairs. Despite his success during his two terms in the radiography program, Sam decided that a career in health care just wasn't the right fit.

He is now enrolled in the Information Technology-Computer Support Specialist program. "I'm focused on school and my future. I try my best to get school work done, while also earning the money to pay for my own expenses," Sam says.

Balancing classes and work is challenging, but during the pandemic, it's an even bigger obstacle. Sam explains, "The pandemic had me worried about how I was going to pay for school since work has been slower this year. This scholarship relieved some of those worries, and I'm so grateful for that. I hope that one day I'll have the opportunity to give back to my community in ways like this."



you

# NURTURE ESSENTIAL CAREERS

“

I cannot express how thankful I am. I can now focus my energy on my final classes and prepare for the licensing exam.

Marti Rudawski  
Nursing

**M**arti Rudawski lives in Land O' Lakes and started attending Nicolet College right after she graduated as valedictorian from Phelps High School in 2018. She is now in her fourth and final term of the Nursing program. "I decided to attend Nicolet College primarily because it is much more affordable for students compared to attending a university. The small class sizes and teacher-student ratio were also appealing to me," Marti says.

Her interest in health care started in high school. She actually started taking Nicolet College courses as a junior. One of her Nicolet instructors says she is, "enthusiastic, patient, and laser focused – always seeking a deeper understanding."

Earning her associate's degree in nursing is only the beginning for Marti. She wants to be

a nurse practitioner and specialize in surgery. "This desire comes from the experience I had working closely with a PA while I was undergoing two knee surgeries. I find the work of an advanced practice health care provider to be challenging both mentally and physically." Her goals also include living and working in Northern Wisconsin or Upper Michigan and looks forward to serving her community.

Marti is paying for her own education, and thanks to scholarships from the Nicolet College Foundation, she has less to worry about outside of the classroom. That translates directly into the classroom. She adds, "I cannot express how thankful I am. I can now focus my energy on my final classes and prepare for the licensing exam."





you  
**CULTIVATE  
COMMUNITY**

“

Receiving this scholarship means a lot to me. I am thankful for someone looking out for students who are going into the trades.

**J**ames Zastrow graduated from Tomahawk High School in 2019 and is enrolled in the Industrial Mechanical Technician program. He says, “I have always had an interest in fixing and building things, which led me to wanting to do something with my hands.”

He chose Nicolet College because it’s close to home and offers hands-on learning. During the pandemic, there is more remote learning, but James and his classmates are still able to have some class time on campus, following CDC guidelines. James appreciates the level

of interaction he receives at Nicolet, and transitioning to more online classes is working well. He says, “The quality of my education is exceeding what I thought it would be because the instructors care so much about you.”

James’ goal is to start his career as an industrial mechanical technician at a local company. A big part of what is helping James is donor support. “Receiving this scholarship means a lot to me. I am thankful for someone looking out for students who are going into the trades.”

**James Zastrow**  
Industrial Mechanical Technician

# your IMPACT ADDS UP

31

ENDOWED  
FUNDS

## PERSONAL, PROTECTED, AND PROFESSIONALLY MANAGED.

The Foundation honors our generous donors who have established endowments. They represent a permanent investment in the future of Nicolet College and a promise to students committed to pursuing their educational goals. Your gift of \$5,000 or more maintains everlasting significance; with the core gift remaining intact and investment revenues funding future scholarships and specific donor-established purposes.

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DONORS

## CORPORATE, PRIVATE, AND INDIVIDUAL DONORS SUPPORT OUR GOALS.

The Foundation celebrates those who give graciously to our students and programs. Donors help transform lives by partnering with the Foundation to encourage, support, and promote the educational goals of our students. Your philanthropic investment allows them to enhance their lives through education, training, and experience to realize their dreams.

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NICOLET PROMISE  
STUDENTS

## A NICOLET EDUCATION FREE OF FINANCIAL BURDENS.

This partnership between Nicolet College and students bridges the difference between federal funded support and student financial needs. The Foundation's goal to remove financial barriers for qualified students ensures bright, hard-working, and dedicated students receive support allowing them to have hope in a solid, attainable future. In 2018-19, donor support made it possible for 14 students to receive a tuition-free college education.

477

SCHOLARSHIPS  
& OTHER AWARDS

## SCHOLARSHIPS REPRESENT DEVOTION TO STUDENTS' GOALS AND DRIVE TO SUCCEED.

The powerful gift of a scholarship stays with students for their entire lives and impacts future generations. Scholarships are awarded to students who are committed to higher education and show promise for a successful future. Your investment in their future plays a critical role by making a quality education possible. Donors create a philanthropic legacy and strengthen the workforce by investing in students who go on to contribute to the community, economy, and society.

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*Donors are listed for contributions received  
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your support transforms  
**STUDENTS  
INTO HEROES**

“

I am thrilled to step up into a career  
where I am really helping others.

**Kelly Hofstetter Helgeson**  
Nicolet College Alum

“I think my desire to be a nurse was always with me, I just realized it over time,” Kelly Hofstetter Helgeson reflects. She remembers her grandmother sharing stories about being a nurse, saying, “I always admired her and wanted to make a similar mark on the world and on people.” Kelly also helped take care of her grandfather who had Alzheimer’s disease.

Kelly’s first term at Nicolet College was 20 years ago, right after she graduated from Rhinelander High School. “Nicolet was the only school I even considered,” Kelly recalls. She wanted to be a teacher and enrolled in the Early Childhood Education program. Kelly ended up moving to Washington, D.C., where she worked as a nanny for one year.

She came back to Rhinelander, and this time enrolled in Nicolet College’s Cosmetology program. She used her technical diploma to start a new career, but soon started working for a dermatologist, where she worked as a dermatology technician for 12 years. It was during this time she started to become interested in health care. Kelly decided to pursue her nursing degree and once again turned to Nicolet College, but she couldn’t do it alone.

Nicolet College Foundation donors helped Kelly balance school, work, and her family. “Scholarships helped me reach my goals in so many ways. I relied on my husband to financially support our household because my part-time paychecks did not go very far, and I was unable to save money for the future,” she explains.

In April of 2020, Kelly graduated with her associate’s degree in nursing at Nicolet College. Completing her degree during a pandemic was not ideal, and she goes on to say, “Nicolet has tailored their program to produce the safest, most high-quality nurses possible, so to deviate from the carefully thought-out program was not the dream. However, there was a silver lining to it. The pandemic enabled us to get a head start on the critical thinking and nursing skills we had been introduced to and slowly beginning to practice while in school. This pandemic gave us the opportunity to jump into the field of medicine even before graduating, instantly immersing us in healthcare and demonstrating the need for safety, ethics, and quality in nursing.”

She began her nursing career this summer and is a psychiatric nurse at the Mendota Mental Health Institute in Madison. “I am thrilled to step up into a career where I am really helping others. The field of mental health is constantly evolving, and I am so proud to have earned my nursing degree and to practice nursing in this specialty. I feel grateful, proud, and fulfilled daily,” Kelly says.

Kelly already started working toward her bachelor’s degree in nursing while she was at Nicolet. As she continues her education while she works, her career goals are big. Just a few goals she would like to accomplish include becoming a traveling nurse and maybe even joining Doctors Without Borders. We can’t wait to see what this Nicolet College alum does next!



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Charitable gifts come in many different forms and sizes. The Nicolet College Foundation is grateful for donors who generously provide gifts of personal property, time, or service as each one helps our college serve our students and our community.

David Kubesh

State Farm

# IN REMEMBRANCE

Some people choose to honor a loved one by establishing a memorial scholarships or other tribute in their name through the Nicolet College Foundation. The foundation wishes to thank all those who made a gift in memory of the following individuals:

Clayton & Joan Arndt  
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Kurt Wendt  
Vivian Zeldora Woerner

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Alumni and friends of Nicolet College are creating legacies through planned gifts with their estates. Your gift will provide support for Nicolet students for generations. Thank you for your thoughtful planning and generosity.

Anonymous  
Anonymous

Gayle Cholewinski  
George & Sondra Juetten  
Mitch & Sally Mode

Bruce Schlein  
Richard & Virginia Steber

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**PART-TIME STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP**

Jennifer Ashburn  
Brooke Brewer  
Elizabeth Confer  
Daena Ellington  
Megan Erdle  
Katie Frisque  
Georgia Fryar  
Michell Goersch  
Abigail Hamm  
Heather Herrmann  
Matthew Hill  
Janessa Kovach  
Nicholas McIntire  
Ryan Nordquist  
Jennifer Oakley  
Taylor Payne  
Michaela Schilleman  
Lindsey Warbalow  
Samantha Zarm

**PAT HOEPER MEMORIAL ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP**

Eden Tusa

**PAULETTE RICKERT MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**

Jena Rudawski  
Brigette Ryan

**PAUL G. HANSEN MEMORIAL AUTOMOTIVE ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP**

Louis Labarge

**PRAT FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP**

Brooke Berdan

**PUKALL LUMBER FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP**

Scott Moxham

**RANDY J. HOEGGER MEMORIAL AUTOMOTIVE SCHOLARSHIP**

Kandise Derickson  
Judd Klotz  
Louis Labarge

**RANDY J. HOEGGER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**

Jordan Kokely  
Zachary Neddo-Bolte  
Lucas Steffes  
Dylan Wendt

**RANDY J. HOEGGER MEMORIAL WELDING SCHOLARSHIP**

Ty Flannery  
Timothy Sleeper  
Lois Waydick

**RENNES GROUP SCHOLARSHIP**

Thomas Ciskowski

**RETURNING ADULT SCHOLARSHIP**

Michelle Huml  
Angela Morrison

**RHINELANDER ROTARY CLUB SCHOLARSHIP**

Matthew Fessenden

**RICHARD & VIRGINIA STEBER ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP**

Thomas Ciskowski

**RIPCO CREDIT UNION SCHOLARSHIP**

Brielle Tauer

**RONALD HEMAUER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**

MaryBeth Tienhaara

**ROSE & KEITH NELSON ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP**

Jena Rudawski

**RUTH KITZMAN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**

Anna Eckardt

**SAINT GERMAIN PRIMETIMERS SCHOLARSHIP**

Brigette Ryan

**SANDY & BRAD BISHOP SCHOLARSHIP**

Brittany Jashinsky

**SCHMIDT’S BAKERY ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP**

Guadalupe Cisneros  
Lorinda Miller-Jackson

**SEKEL FAMILY ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP**

Marla Parise

**SENATOR HERB KOHL SCHOLARSHIP**

Jeanine Fisher  
Miranda Maney

**SONICNET SCHOLARSHIP**

Riley Clements

**ST. MATTHIAS THRIFT SHOP SCHOLARSHIP**

Scott Bresnahan  
Jennifer Crom  
Ethan Lundborg  
Ethan Snyder  
Matthew Turkiewicz

**STORM CARROLL MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**

Tiffany Hauser

**SUPERIOR DIESEL SCHOLARSHIP**

Marti Rudawski

**THOMAS E. LAWRENCE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**

Angela Ventura

**TIM MILLER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**

MaryBeth Tienhaara

**TINY KRUEGER MEMORIAL ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP**

Trevor Hefter

**TOMAHAWK COMMUNITY BANK SCHOLARSHIP**

Lizebeth Edwardsen

**TRINKA WEBER ROGERS VFW POST 8637 SCHOLARSHIP**

Kimberly Beenken

**VERN KOHLBECK MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**

Kandise Derickson  
Judd Klotz

**VEROL MAE RITCHIE ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP**

Elizabeth Reed

**VIRGINIA “GINNY” SHERMAN/ NORTHWOODS BRANCH AAUW SCHOLARSHIP**

Dawn Saal

**VIRGINIA MCDERMOTT EHLERS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**

Tiffany Hauser

**VIVIEN ZELDORA WOERNER SCHOLARSHIP**

Emily Sowinski

**VOLUNTEERS OF HOWARD YOUNG MEDICAL CENTER SCHOLARSHIP**

Gregory Matuszewski  
Faviola Morales

**WEGE BROTHERS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**

Robert Schaefer

**WISCONSIN WOMEN EQUAL PROSPERITY SCHOLARSHIP**

Lizebeth Edwardsen



Brigette Ryan  
and family



Sara Pelkowski  
and family

# you are a true hero TO NICOLET COLLEGE STUDENTS

“

We felt the least we could do was help out. Hopefully it made things a little bit easier for someone.

Michael Wells  
Nicolet College Alum and Donor

When we asked our donors to help provide emergency assistance for Nicolet students, Michael Wells was one of the first people to respond. As an alum, Michael and his wife, Susan, felt compelled to help current students, and adds, “We made a donation to the Foundation for the Student Emergency Assistance Fund because I was deemed essential at my job, so I never had a loss of income during the pandemic. We felt the least we could do was help out.”

Michael graduated from Nicolet College with a CIS Network Specialist associate’s degree in 2003. Looking back, he says, “Nicolet was the best choice for me and my family. I attended UW-Oshkosh right out of high school but never finished. When my former employer closed the doors, I lost my job, and it was the logical choice to finish up at Nicolet.”

Our donors made it possible for the Nicolet College Foundation to create a new Student Emergency Assistance Fund. You allowed the Foundation to award more than \$15,000 to 58 students as of June 30, 2020, the end of the 2019-20 fiscal year. And the Foundation is still receiving emergency assistance applications from students.

One of the students you helped is Brigette Ryan. She lives in Vilas County and was enrolled in her final semester of the Early Childhood Education program last spring. Her family of five planned on living on her husband’s income while she went back to school, but the Safer at Home Order meant her husband could no longer work. Brigette explains, “I applied for assistance because I was worried about how we were going to make ends meet when the pandemic hit. This assistance allowed me to feel comfortable that I could at least put

food on the table for my family. Thank you for giving so selflessly.”

Brigette earned her associate’s degree at the end of the spring term. She looks forward to fulfilling her dream of working in a school district, but for now she is putting her Nicolet College degree to use by homeschooling her three children. “Nicolet has always been a big supporter of their students, but the emergency funds that were set up really prove that you care about your students in all aspects of their lives!” Brigette adds.

Sara Pelkowski is another student for whom you made a difference. She says, “When the COVID-19 pandemic started, my life was turned upside down like many other families. My husband was activated for the National Guard, and all of a sudden I was alone with my children who could no longer go to school, the two programs I

was enrolled in were on pause, and I did not have a job because the restaurant where I worked closed.”

Sara calls this assistance a blessing and adds, “It is hard to put into words how much I appreciate the donors and what they did for my family. They made a positive impact on my life during a very scary time.” Sara earned her Medical Assistant and Emergency Medical Technician diplomas this summer and is excited to serve her community.

No one knew what 2020 would bring, but there is one thing we know for sure. When we ask, you answer. You helped students like Brigette and Sara successfully complete their degrees at a time when it would have been understandable for them to withdraw. Thanks to you, they continued to move forward.



JUDAY AWARDS

A DAY FOR NICOLET SCHOLARSHIPS

Austine Avery  
Breanna Beckwith  
Lydia Black  
Kevin Bowman  
Cortney DesJarlais  
Anna Eckardt  
Lizebeth Edwardsen  
Megan Erdle  
Hailie Henrie  
Jason Higgins

Kristie Hogenmiller  
Maja Holcomb  
Lisa Hunt  
Clarissa Jaeger  
Sylvia Kauth  
Shannon Lemm  
Renee Lieder  
Heidi Lynch  
Jade Martin

Connor Newman  
Danielle Riebe  
April Stine  
Trista Tripp  
Shannon Wallock  
A'Darius Wilson  
Jacob Wojcik  
Heather Wood  
Carli Zimmerman

Annamarie Allen  
Jada Appling  
Madison Asbach  
Kaylee Babich  
Hannah Baldauf  
Callie Baldridge  
Karson Bartz  
Rachel Bauer  
Maegan Bauman  
Jeremiah Bellow  
Brooke Berray  
Belinda Bickford  
Lydia Black  
Chelsey Blask  
Savannah Bloechl  
Dori Boos  
Amanda Bowen  
Erika Brigham  
Ashley Britt  
Athena Brown  
Michael Bryner  
Samantha Bullard  
Tyler Burgoyne  
Caitlin Cassidy  
Sam Caudle  
Macaslyn Chaney  
Heather Charbarneau  
Jared Chizever  
Madison Clough  
Megan Clouse  
Ian Conkey  
Annette Cottier

Brandon Crum  
Delaney Daly  
Jacob Dart  
Emily DeLoughary  
Melissa Denton  
Joseph Doolittle  
Amira Erdmann  
Miah Faust  
Megan Franson  
Desi French  
Kayla Gebert  
Abigail Gechas  
Taylor Gensler  
Grant Gilbert  
Bryce Ginter  
Elizabeth Goerke  
Ganita Golberg  
Jordan Good  
Josiah Grafenauer  
Josiphine Guzik  
Brianna Hagen  
Carly Hanlon  
Chris Hartig  
Hailie Henrie  
Ryan Holly  
Ashlyn Hooper  
Michelle Huml  
Lisa Hunt  
Amanda Jacques  
Clarissa Jaeger  
Autumn Jalinski  
Jarett James

Jacob Johnson  
Megan Jones  
Maia Kegley  
Sarah Kirchoff  
Kelly Kirst  
Lexi Klemann  
Danielle Klimowicz  
Jaxon Klitzka  
Joshua Koltonski  
Katherine Koppa  
Benjamin Krieg  
Nicole Kube  
Angelica Kurth  
Courtney Kyllonen  
Kelcie LaChapelle  
Jerry LaFond  
Natalie Lassig  
Kelly Lee  
Cole Leggett  
Angelica Lemerande  
Renee Lieder  
Maria Littleton  
Tanya Lopez  
Sarah Magnuson  
Kelly Mantel  
Kaylee McGeshick  
Amy Mehlhoff  
Ashlin Messner  
Gabriella Miller  
Lorinda Miller-Jackson  
Gabriel Mordente  
Hunter Novak

Grace Payfer  
Darryn Pekoc  
Sarah Pelkowski  
Rachel Peters  
Angela Pietenpol  
Alexandra Pond  
Dylan Potter  
Jessica Roberts  
Dominick Saccone  
Ciera Saeman  
Carisa Scanlon  
Janelle Schroder  
Laura Schuenemann  
Katarina Searles  
Andrew Shaw  
Caleb Sinner  
Stephenie Smith  
Rebecca Snider  
Danielle Stachewicz  
Jessie Starke  
Tyler Tate  
Skylar Traczyk  
Gail Vander Bloomen  
Alex Wagler  
Shannon Wallock  
Lindsey Warbalow  
Tanya Wedemayer  
Sara Weix  
Emily Wells  
Jonah Zarda  
Naomi Zwiers



Your generosity not only assists me personally but also supports our rural community by providing skilled and educated young people in our workforce. Thank you again for your support and for this opportunity.

Ethan Snyder  
Criminal Justice Studies

# STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

NICOLET COLLEGE FOUNDATION, INC.  
July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020

	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total
Public support and revenues:			
Contributions	\$55,883	\$240,934	\$296,817
In-kind contribution	149,825	0	149,825
Investment return		54,113	54,113
Gain/(loss) on sale of property	(52,466)		(52,466)
Net assets released from restriction	236,658	(236,658)	0
Total support and revenues	389,900	58,389	448,289
Functional expenses:			
Program expenses - scholarships	291,525		291,525
Management and general	35,732		35,732
Management and general - Paid by college	149,825		149,825
Total functional expenses	477,082	0	477,082
Change in net assets	(87,182)	58,389	(28,793)
Net assets at beginning of year	1,061,600	1,951,068	3,012,668
Net assets at end of year	\$974,418	\$2,009,457	\$2,983,875

“  
The pandemic has been a crazy roller coaster, and without you I wouldn’t be able to continue my education.

Haleigh Sprecksel  
Associate of Arts







# thank you

Receiving a scholarship is very heartwarming because even though sometimes I do not believe in myself, I know someone else does.

Jessica Egan  
Associate of Arts



NICOLET COLLEGE  
FOUNDATION

Nicolet College Foundation  
5364 College Drive  
PO Box 518  
Rhineland, WI 54501

715.365.4518 or  
800.544.3039 ext 4518  
TTY: 800.947.3529 or 711

**[nicoletcollege.edu](http://nicoletcollege.edu)**

Nicolet College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities. The following person has been designated to manage inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: VP of Finance and Administration, Nicolet Area Technical College, PO Box 518, Rhineland, WI 54501-0518, Telephone: 715.365.4553 or TTY: 800.947.3529 or 711  
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