

A DECADE OF FRIENDS & FAMILY



NPC Friends & Family

www.npc.edu/npcfriensfamily

July 2024

Celebrating Ten Years of Supporting NPC Students

On July 1, 2014, I was fortunate to be hired by NPC President, Dr. Jeanne Swarthout, as executive director of the NPC Foundation. By month's end, Northland Pioneer College Friends and Family, Inc., was established, with a brand-new mission: Supporting and promoting lifelong learning through fundraising, advocacy and volunteerism. It was an exciting time, with great expectations on the horizon!

My fledgling board and I took stock of the assets we had to carry our mission forward. They included two endowed scholarships, cash totaling about \$35,000, a few parcels of remote, unimproved land, and an empty building in Holbrook. The sale of the building and land helped us establish a \$200,000.00 endowment, and we were excited to have the opportunity to build up some financial security!

We began fundraising activities in earnest, and my board established new scholarships, and an emergency fund, to be awarded every semester to students at all nine NPC locations. At first, these were hard to award! In the academic year 2014-15, we bestowed a little over \$18,000.00. I began to teach workshops around the NPC service area to teach students how to apply for scholarships. We held fundraising events, and promoted our amazing college and students.

Through it all, we made the most amazing friends – like you. We met them through events like Arizona Gives Day and Pedal the Petrified, and through word of mouth from other friends. When they learned about what a unique college NPC is, and how determined our students are, despite the incredible challenges they face, they provided the most wonderful, unforeseen, generous support. This support even endured through COVID, and the volatility of the economy that accompanied that period.

Some of our biggest supporters have chosen to remain anonymous. Some, like the Del E. Webb Foundation, have helped us launch exciting new programs to bring students academic and career-readiness skills for

living-wage employment. Some supporters have scholarships named for themselves or their loved ones. And sadly, some are no longer with us, but their legacy endures through their gifts and the donations made to honor their memory: Pres Winslow, Jennifer Lee Witt, Martia and Louis Smith, Mary “Kay” Smith Lindy, Charles E. Lisitzky, Dr. Arvin Palmer, Martin Lucas, Joann Thompson, Tim Shove, Corky Elikann, William and Fiona Newman, and the unforgettable, inspirational Dr. Jon Graff.

As of July 2014, our assets total over \$2.5 million, and we have awarded over \$750,000.00 in scholarships. “We” means my terrific NPC Friends and Family board members, NPC staff, faculty, and administrators... but mostly, “We” means you. I am forever indebted to you for your enduring kindness and generosity. You have helped hundreds of Northland Pioneer College students, not only to afford a college education, but to SEE themselves as college students. They found the courage to keep striving for that degree, because someone believed in them enough to give them a scholarship. The money is quantifiable, but the real value of your support is beyond all measure.

Ten years seem to have gone past in an instant, yet so much has transpired. There are exciting changes on the horizon, and more student stories to share with each semester that passes, thanks to you. Thank you. I always wish I had some bigger, better way to convey to you what your friendship has meant, and continues to mean, but there simply are no other words. Please know that they come from my heart and that they are shared by every NPC student whose life you have touched with your goodness.



NPC FRIENDS AND FAMILY WELCOMES A GREAT NEW TALENT!

And speaking of exciting changes on the horizon! For the first ten years of NPC Friends and Family (NPCFF), I have been its sole employee. While I have had tremendous support from the Northland Pioneer College Family, the growth of the foundation has outpaced my ability to attend to all aspects of it with the level of detail and rigor that it – and you – deserve.

I am delighted to welcome Karen Zimmerman as the second employee of NPCFF! Karen's title, Development Coordinator, does not describe the importance of her role as my partner and collaborator in advancing our mission. She will be taking on a lot of the student-facing processes related to the administration and awarding of scholarships. This involves collaboration with NPC's academic advising, financial aid, and marketing staff, faculty, and the students themselves, as well as outreach to NPC's nineteen partner high schools.

Karen is incredibly well-prepared for this! She has been with Northland Pioneer College for over eleven years. She has worked as High School Programs/ Recruitment Coordinator, and Advisor for our Early College program, which allows high school juniors and seniors to take classes for credit toward both their high school diplomas and college associate degrees. As an Early College Advisor, Karen took the initiative to organize college-readiness presentations for both high school seniors and their parents, and pulled me in for the scholarship-information portion. She has also served as Ride Director for Pedal the Petrified and assisted me with many scholarship

workshops. When she applied for and got the job of Development Coordinator, Karen was serving as an Academic Advisor, assisting NPC students with the development of degree plans, and helping them navigate the college system.

Karen's official start date was July 1, but she attended our annual NPC Friends and Family board retreat on June 28, where she was enthusiastically welcomed by the full NPCFF board! Look for an increase in the number and quality of scholarship applications, and the number of scholarships awarded every semester! With Karen at the wheel, NPCFF is on the road to even greater success for students!



THE RESILIENCE OF *Jillian Henry*

Jillian Henry first came to my attention in spring 2022 as a student at Northland Pioneer College (NPC), when she applied for a scholarship from NPC Friends and Family. She asked me to review her essay before she submitted her full application. I am committed to assisting students in learning how to apply for scholarships, not only to attend NPC, but to help them through their entire post-secondary journey. Jillian's personal mission, described in her essay, resonated with me in a big way. After learning in 2018 that she was diabetic, she has striven to learn as much as possible about the disease, to become, as she puts it, "...an advocate, preventer, and educator about this disease to help my people feel hopeful."

In working with Jillian on refining her first scholarship application, I noted she had first begun taking classes at NPC over ten years before, through The Learning Cornerstone, which was the college's Adult Basic Education program. This is significant because it illustrates Jillian's determination and commitment to earning a degree. She began college-level coursework toward her associate degree in Medical Assisting in Fall 2020, a semester in which many students were profoundly challenged by COVID. In every semester since, Jillian consistently improved her grades. Throughout this rigorous program, she carried a full-time course load, and since Fall 2022, she has earned a 4.0 GPA every term. She even took Math 142 in the same, accelerated summer 2023 semester as her Medical Assistant Externship, earning grades of A in both classes.



Jillian Henry

Jillian earned her associate degree from NPC this May 2024. She achieved this milestone in her impressive academic journey while balancing work and motherhood. She is also a perennial volunteer, having coached basketball in the Blue Ridge Youth League for third and fourth-grade boys, and taking part in student-led activities at NPC, including the college's biannual Eagle Fest this spring, where she staffed a booth sharing information about her White Mountain Apache Tribe. She is an active member of NPC's Alpha Tau Omega chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, the international honor society for community college students, and was named as one of NPC's delegation to the prestigious All-Arizona Academic Team this spring.

Now, Jillian is off to even bigger goals! She has been accepted into the Arizona State University College of Health Solutions to earn a Bachelor's in Health Science degree. Her ultimate goal is to help the people of

her White Mountain Apache Tribe to understand and manage their overall health, and to learn how diet, exercise, and other forms of self-care can prevent disease and improve existing conditions. Students like Jillian, supported by the kindness of people like you, and working together, each in their own niche and their own ways, can and will change the world for the better!

“FREE” COLLEGE?

LOOKING TOWARD THE NEXT TEN YEARS

Much of the first ten years of NPC Friends and Family has been spent learning the best ways to respond to student needs as they arose. Notable was the realization that just because we have scholarships available does not mean students will apply for scholarships! Many factors contribute to this, including the idea that scholarships are reserved for the academic elite, as well as the lack of understanding about how to find and apply for scholarships, including how to convey oneself to scholarship funders through the medium of a personal essay. Also significant are cultural feelings about asking for help or taking “charity.” It is important for NPC students to see scholarships as an investment in themselves that will result in their acquisition of the education and job-related skills that will help them improve, not only their lives but also their families and communities.

While we have made tremendous gains in the number and quality of scholarship applications NPC Friends and Family receives each semester, and thus in scholarships awarded, these issues remain pervasive among NPC students and it will remain important that we continue to address them through communication, outreach, and education. We want NPC students to apply the knowledge that they can win scholarships to go to any post-secondary institution, without taking on massive debt.

A significant trend that has come to the forefront in post-secondary education is the availability of “free” college: tuition waivers marketed in the form of “Promise Scholarships”. Don’t get me wrong: not having to pay tuition is a huge help, particularly for low-income students. Still, Arizona’s Promise Scholarship program, which is currently funded only at state universities, does not include costs such as housing, meal plans, books, or parking. As a parent of two Arizona university students, I can attest that the sum of these costs exceeds that of tuition. Unless a student has other means of paying for these, a college degree is still out of reach for many.

While it is true that community college students do not have to pay for things like dorm rent and meal plans, it is still the ancillary costs related to attendance that create barriers. In a 2022 national report, “Mission Critical: The Role of Community Colleges in Meeting Students’ Basic Needs,” which summarized the nationwide Community College Survey of Student Engagement, a lack of finances was cited for the reason 69% of students had considered dropping out of college. Two of the most significant issues impacting NPC students are the cost of childcare and transportation. Particularly for NPC’s low-income students, these are compounded by rising housing and food costs. Students are forced to choose between care of themselves and their families, and the college education that could improve their circumstances and change their lives for the better.

As you hear and read more about “free” college, know that the scholarships you help to provide will remain vital to the success of students at Northland Pioneer College. Scholarships from NPC Friends and Family are all about helping students access the college education that can change the lives of our students, their families, and their communities. My board and I envision the next ten years as a time of continually increasing the number, size, and amount of scholarships awarded to NPC students, to help them surmount the challenges they face in completing transformational college programs.

Thank you for all you have done over the past ten years to carry our mission forward. Please know how much we need and appreciate you, and how much we always will.



THERAPEUTIC MASSAGE PROGRAM

We're thrilled to fill you in on the incredible Therapeutic Massage Program that has recently relocated to our Silver Creek Campus in Snowflake, Arizona. This place is not just about classes—it's a whole vibe dedicated to wellness and learning. Picture serene landscapes and students diving deep into the art and science of therapeutic massage.

This program is truly education that empowers and goes beyond textbooks. Students get hands-on with anatomy, physiology, and all sorts of massage techniques. They're not just learning; they're gearing up to become licensed massage therapists who can bring healing and joy to their communities.

The focus is on practical experience. From Swedish massage to deep tissue and sports therapy, students are mastering the skills needed to make a real difference. Plus, they're picking up essential people skills—like empathy and communication—that make every massage session personal and effective.

As the students advance through their program, they have begun to welcome staff and community member volunteers for their hands-on clinical experience. These volunteers play a crucial role, providing valuable feedback and helping our students refine their techniques. While massages are offered free of charge, we encourage volunteers to consider making a donation to our Massage Program Scholarship Fund through NPCFF. Every contribution helps support future therapists in their educational journey.

Find out more

www.npc.edu/therapeutic-massage

Book a no-cost massage session

www.messagebook.com/therapists/npc



Make a Difference – Donate Today!

NPC students are succeeding in spite of all the odds. Many are the first generation in their families to attend college. Lots of adults are coming back to school while coping with the responsibilities of caring for children or elderly parents. Most have incredible financial need and they succeed because of the scholarships made possible, and sustained, by generous people like you!

YES! I want to donate to NPC Friends and Family and help support NPC student scholarships.

Donations can be made online via credit/debit card at to www.npc.edu/npcfriendsfamily by clicking the “donate” button. Donations can also be made by using this form. Make your check or money order payable to NPC Friends and Family. **THANK YOU!**

Please add my gift of \$_____ to the following:

- Bachelor's in Early Childhood Education Scholarship** – For students in NPC's first bachelor's degree program
- Eagle Fund** – Unrestricted scholarships for students in greatest financial need
- AndyVon Scholarship Fund** – For Native American students
- Arvin Palmer, Ph.D., Memorial Scholarship** – For graduates of Snowflake High School
- Charles E. Lisitzky Memorial Scholarship** – For Native American students
- Claude Millet Endfield Early Childhood Development Scholarship** – For degree-seeking students in the ECD program
- Doris Reed Nursing Scholarship** – For nursing and allied health
- Jeanne Swarthout, Ph.D., Presidential Excellence Scholarship** – For degree-seeking students with a GPA of 3.5
- Jennifer Lee Witt Memorial Scholarship** – For degree seeking students
- Jon Graff, Ph.D., Fund** – For NPC students who are university bound, career bound or college-bound
- Martia A. Smith Memorial Art Scholarship** – For all full-time, degree-seeking students
- Mary Kay Smith Lindy Scholarship for Native American Nursing Students**
- Pres Winslow Memorial Scholarship** – For high school graduates enrolled at NPC
- Taking Flight Scholarship in memory of Dr. Eric B. Henderson** – For NPC graduates going on to a university
- U.S. Military Veterans Scholarship** – For veterans, their spouses and their dependents
- VAL 153 Memorial Scholarship** – For students in Fire Science and Paramedicine (EMT) programs
- Newman Family Memorial Scholarship** – For degree-seeking students on the I-40 corridor
- Therapeutic Massage Program Scholarship** – For enrolled therapeutic massage students

What your donation looks like as tuition:

- \$73** – Provides one credit of tuition for residents of Navajo County
- \$219** – Provides tuition for one three-credit class
- \$438** – Provides tuition for one student to attend half-time
- \$876** – Provides tuition for one student to attend full-time (12 credits)



**Begin a legacy –
Help students in need by starting
your own scholarship**

**Please contact betsy.wilson@npc.edu
to discuss how to create an NPCFF
scholarship fund.**

Thank you, for your continued support and donation.

You can learn more about and also give to NPC Friends and Family at www.npc.edu/npcfriendsfamily

NPC Friends and Family is a 501(c)(3) organization. Donations may be used for tax purposes.