

Your

SPRING 2023

IMPACT



This
IS WHAT YOUR
COMMITMENT
HAS DONE.

NORTHEAST IOWA COMMUNITY COLLEGE ADVANCEMENT



The **Lifting Students Higher** program receives funding from the national Morgridge Family Foundation. Student leaders at the Calmar and Peosta campuses serve on a board similar to the NICC Foundation Board.

Additional funding is provided through the College's Student Support Fund, which is funded by local donors like you, and supports similar initiatives such as gas, groceries, childcare, class costs and other unforeseen expenses.

NEIDA VIVERO-TRINIDAD
ASSOCIATE OF SCIENCE STUDENT

A *passion* FOR GIVING

Inflation and higher costs have hit college students especially hard this past year. Neida Vivero-Trinidad, an Associate of Science student at Northeast Iowa Community College, knows this very well. Neida sees firsthand the financial struggles her fellow students encounter when paying tuition, personal bills and vehicle expenses, such as gas. A first-generation college student herself, Neida chose NICC for its affordability and closeness to home to ensure she would be successful in obtaining her degree.

Now a member of the student-led organization Lifting Students Higher, Neida believes her membership is a logical continuation of her lifelong service to others. Neida and student members review applications from students in need with a staff advisor and then allocate funds to help their peers.

“When I was in high school I took a Service Learning class where we were taught how to help our community — I have always had a passion for helping others. Through Lifting Students Higher at NICC, I can show students that we understand their struggles and we’re here to help the best we can,” Neida said.

Students know each other and what they’re going through. Even a small amount of financial assistance to a student can make a difference in completing their education.

FROM TO EMPLOYEE MENTOR

Scholarship Student

Verrick Foust had such a good experience as a student at Northeast Iowa Community College, he returned to his alma mater right after graduation to start his career.

Verrick graduated from the Computer Analyst program in 2021 and now works full-time for the College's Computer Information Systems division as a support services technician.

"I have always had a passion for STEM, especially information technology (IT) and computer science. I am now working for my alma mater because I want to help students and instructors find their path in IT, just as NICC did for me," Verrick said.

Scholarship support made a profound impact on his student experience. "Scholarships made it possible for me to continue my education when I needed help with travel and paying medical expenses. It's difficult to imagine where I would be today without the help of these scholarships," he said.

To nurture the next generation of computer science professionals, Verrick continues to support non-profit organizations and local schools by providing job shadows, demonstrations and speaking to students.



Last year the NICC
Foundation awarded
\$405,321 in scholarships
to **400 students.**

VERRICK FOUST
COMPUTER ANALYST-NETWORKING
ADMINISTRATION & TECH SUPPORT, '21



A Year in Review:

HOW YOU SUPPORT STUDENT NEEDS

As a donor who gives to Northeast Iowa Community College, your partnership throughout the year provides relevant and practical assistance to students, and your support makes a tremendous impact.

Last spring, your support towards the NICC Gas to Class effort through Great Give Day generated \$10,050 in funding and also received a \$7,500 giving match from Group Benefit Partners — totaling to \$17,550 raised. You provided us the opportunity to award 130+ gas cards to students this past year. The next Great Give Day event arrives on May 17, 2023.

Gas to Class arrived at just the right time for students faced with historic spikes in gas prices from 2022-2023. More than 50 percent of NICC students work more than 21 hours per week and commute each day to campus. Your partnership on this initiative provided much-needed assistance to students who have transportation obstacles blocking their educational goals.

Your support of the Student Crisis Fundraiser also continues to provide students with the help needed to stay in college. Students assisted through this fund receive assistance for a variety of crisis situations — energy and car repair bills, unexpected job losses or even displacement after a fire emergency.

Events at the Calmar, Peosta and Dubuque campuses in 2022 received \$9,324 in support from you — generous donors both employed at the College and in our surrounding local communities.

Additional resources are available through the Student Support Fund (mentioned on pg. 2). Without your investment, NICC would not be able to provide support and practical assistance for gas, groceries, childcare, class costs, health expenses and other unforeseen costs.

Whatever path you decide to offer support, our students have brighter futures in their lives and careers because of you. Your contribution ensures that northeast Iowa remains a place that will prosper and grow for years to come.



“Because I’m low income and not taking enough credits to get my usual VA education benefits, I couldn’t afford to get enough gas to get back and forth to school for my last semester of college. NICC provided a gas card and it was very compassionate.”

DENISE VALLEY
ASSOCIATE OF GENERAL STUDIES, '22



AMY AMELING
DIRECTOR, LITTLE SPROUTS CHILDREN'S CENTER

FINDING A *solution*

Partnering with and giving to your local community college can be the solution to a workforce shortage.

Little Sprouts Children's Center in New Hampton had nearly 100 children on a waitlist last year for its daycare services. The director, Amy Ameling, contacted NICC to bring additional skilled child care personnel into the area's labor market. A partnership formed between the College and Little Sprouts led to an earn and learn opportunity for new daycare employees. Employees advance their skills and knowledge at NICC while earning an income at the center.

"The need for caregivers with more skills and training is ongoing and emergent. That's why it is incredibly important that businesses and organizations use their resources to assist the childcare industry with earn and learn initiatives," Amy said.

She understands the struggles working parents have experienced in northeast Iowa, trying to find affordable, accessible daycare for their families. "Business and industries in our tri-county area are desperate for workers. A lack of childcare is one of the main barriers workers identify that keep them out of the workforce," she said.

So far, Little Sprouts has enrolled 17 new employees in the Child Care Level 1 Career Pathway Certificate program at NICC. Early Childhood program instructor Nicole Brodbeck is teaching the students and bringing a wave of trained providers into the community.

Scholarship opportunities are now available for students to receive a stipend or payments while training for their careers. As a donor, your support helps mitigate workforce shortages and provides solutions for businesses and students.

MATCHING GIFTS DOUBLE YOUR *Donation*

You may give to Northeast Iowa Community College for a variety of reasons, personal and professional. Supporting healthcare students and programs could be your highest priority, or perhaps your greatest interest is in workforce development initiatives supported through NICC, just to name a few!

Does your employer share the same passion for supporting local nonprofit organizations and community colleges? If so, an employer-sponsored matching gift program can double your impact at the College.

Companies match donations their employees make to nonprofits because they want to celebrate their employees' investment in the community and support the impactful work of nonprofit organizations.

Marlene Sorenson, who is retired from Alliant Energy and graduated from the College's Human Services Specialist program in 2000, gives to NICC. Her support is matched by Alliant.

"I always want to make sure my gift is going towards student support so they can focus on studying and working toward their degree. I want to help students any way I can, and I choose to give through a matching gift because Alliant Energy recognizes how many years I put in at the company," Marlene said.

If you're looking for additional ways to make a larger impact without breaking the bank, checking with your employer about the possibility of a matching gift may be the perfect solution.

"My employer, Intel, has matched every donation I've made to the NICC Foundation since I started at the company. I love that my company cares about the things I am passionate about."

KAITLYN WHITE
NICC FOUNDATION BOARD
2ND VICE PRESIDENT





**NORTHEAST IOWA
COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

Advancement

MARK YOUR *Calendar*

DONOR CELEBRATION

TUESDAY, APRIL 25

Darkbird Taphouse
7305 Thunder Valley Drive
Peosta

THURSDAY, APRIL 27

PIVO Brewery Event Center
101 Huber Drive
Calmar

GOLF TOURNAMENT

THURSDAY, JUNE 8

Oneota Golf & Country Club
1714 Golf Road
Decorah

MONDAY, JUNE 19

Thunder Hills Country Club
16682 Thunder Hills Drive
Peosta

» Visit www.nicc.edu/advancement/events for more info.