



NORMANDALE
COMMUNITY COLLEGE FOUNDATION

CREATING FUTURES SHAPING MINNESOTA



MINNESOTA STATE

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

Support That Transforms Lives

To our Normandale Community College Foundation community of supporters, There's a renewed energy across campus, filled classrooms, vibrant student life, and a shared determination among students at every stage of their journey. At Normandale, we remain focused on supporting their success through exceptional experiences both inside and outside the classroom.

Since stepping into the role of Interim President on June 4, I've had the privilege of meeting many incredible students, faculty, staff, alumni, donors, and community partners. What I've seen firsthand is a campus defined by care, curiosity, and commitment.

One of the most exciting developments is our continued enrollment growth. Following a remarkable increase in 2024–25, we've grown another 8% this fall, welcoming 11,400 students. As the largest two-year college in Minnesota, we're proud to maintain a student-centered environment that fosters learning and belonging.

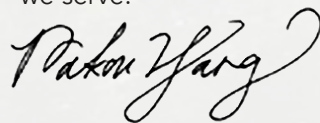
We're also evolving our campus to meet the needs of today's learners and tomorrow's workforce. Our upcoming Center for Interprofessional Education in Healthcare will offer flexible, state-of-the-art spaces for collaborative training across nursing, dental hygiene, exercise science, public health, and more. This initiative will expand our healthcare graduate pipeline and prepare students to serve our community's diverse needs.

In education, our two-year associate degree programs in elementary and special education, alongside initiatives like SpedUP and Sirtify®, are strengthening Minnesota's teacher pipeline and addressing workforce disparities.

We're also thrilled to be renovating the Kopp Student Center, the heart of student life. This revitalized space will enhance co-curricular learning, leadership development, and community building, fostering a deeper sense of belonging and inclusion.

I invite you to explore the inspiring stories of our students and alumni throughout this report and through the many opportunities provided through the Normandale Community College Foundation.

As new or current donors, I thank you for partnering with us to positively impact the lives of the students we serve.



Pakou Yang, Ph.D.
Interim College President



What a Year of Heart and Hope!

This past year has been nothing short of extraordinary, filled with moments that warmed our hearts and challenges that tested our resolve. Through it all, one thing has remained constant: the incredible support and generosity of people like you.

First, the triumphs:

We achieved a record-breaking fundraising year, an accomplishment that belongs to every donor, volunteer, and friend of the Foundation. This annual report marks my third year as Executive Director, and I'm thrilled to see long-held dreams for the Foundation coming to life.

One of those dreams was building a strong major-gifts program. Today, that vision is becoming reality. We've added a full-time position dedicated to nurturing relationships with our longtime friends and supporters, a big step toward sustaining transformational giving.

Another milestone: the launch of our alumni program! After years of planning, we're ready to welcome our first Alumni Engagement Specialist this November. I can't wait to see the doors this program will open for students and the college community.

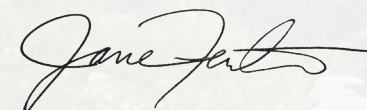
And let's celebrate a record-setting moment: our board and friends rallied to sustain a \$100,000 challenge match for this year's Creating Futures Breakfast, a six-figure achievement that speaks volumes about your commitment.

Of course, the year wasn't without obstacles.

We faced increased scrutiny around diversity and inclusion, requiring deeper documentation and thoughtful practices. And student need has grown dramatically, scholarship applications doubled, with more than 800 students applying for about 450 awards. Working closely with student services, we've stretched resources as far as possible, but the stories of students on the edge remind us why our mission matters so deeply.

The good news? We're getting better every day, because we're in this together.

Your support fuels hope, opportunity, and transformation. Thank you to everyone who stepped up this year and to those who will join us on the journey ahead. The best is yet to come.



Jane Fenton, CFRE
Foundation Executive Director





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Featured on cover: Jazlyn Benitez, Normandale PSEO Student.



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Normandale Community College, a member of the Minnesota State system, is an equal opportunity educator and employer.

At Normandale Community College, education is more than academics. It's a lifeline. Through scholarships, emergency funds, and programs that address hunger, housing, and inequity, the Normandale Community College Foundation ensures students have the stability they need to succeed. When basic needs are met, students can focus, flourish, and build the future of their dreams.

Total Dollars Raised
\$5,415,478

million raised in FY25—
a 205% increase over last year



**Laptop
Program Stats**

800 Free laptops distributed



Number of Scholarships Awarded

455 students received scholarships

\$725,952 provided in scholarships, program and project support



Basic Needs Stats

Campus Cupboard

19,111 of Visits

2,340 Students



66,513 Pounds of Food

15,173 Meals Distributed



all statistics from FY25.

**Student
Resource Center**

76 Number of
students supported
through basic needs
case management



NURSING STUDENT: Resilience, Purpose, and the Power of Support

In our 2022 annual report, we introduced Diana Chinokoro, a newly accepted nursing student who had just relocated from Zambia with her family. Three years later, Diana's journey continues to be defined by resilience and the support she's found at Normandale Community College.

Her nursing path began during a time of personal upheaval. In December 2022, her daughter underwent life-saving surgery at Mayo Clinic.



Amid the stress and uncertainty, Diana received news that she'd been accepted into Normandale's Nursing Program. "My hard work and sleepless nights studying for prerequisites paid off," she says.

Though she faced a setback in her second semester, Diana successfully appealed and rejoined the program. Now in her third semester, she holds fast to the belief that "delay is not denial."

"The most rewarding part of this journey is how I've conquered the challenges, trials, and tribulations," she says. "Through hard work and staying positive, I've come out stronger with an attitude that reminds me I can do it."

Clinical experiences have deepened her sense of purpose. At Masonic Nursing Home, she administered flu shots to residents, and at Presbyterian Homes, she offered support and built meaningful connections. "These experiences gave me a deep sense of satisfaction, knowing I'm making a difference."

"I've been a hardworking, valuable member of my community, at my children's schools, at church, and especially at Normandale. The support I've received, from awards to food supplies from the Campus Cupboard, has been truly impactful."

Diana credits Normandale's nursing faculty for their unwavering support, and she's especially grateful for the guidance she's received as an international student. "Admissions and Student Services have helped me stay on track and make informed decisions."

After graduation, Diana hopes to become a hospice or wound care nurse, fields inspired by her personal caregiving experiences. "I want to sharpen my skills and knowledge to care for patients at the end of life and those with complex wounds."

Looking back, Diana is proud of her growth and contributions.

DENTAL HYGIENE STUDENT: Building Trust, One Smile at a Time

Briana Trieu didn't begin her academic journey in dental hygiene, but every step led her there with intention. After starting at the University of Minnesota, the pandemic shifted her path. She began assisting at a family friend's dental practice, a suggestion from her aunt that quickly became a calling.

"I realized I really enjoyed STEM and science," Briana reflects, "but also the relationships, with patients and my team. Educating people and helping them access care they've gone without for years has been incredibly rewarding."

That realization led her to Normandale, where she found a program aligned with her values. "They

care about maintaining their facilities and keeping everything up to date," she says. "They also offer resources beyond the classroom that truly aid in people's learning."

Normandale's dental hygiene program emphasizes comprehensive, patient-centered care, something Briana sees reflected in her clinical experiences. "A lot of my patients tell me they learn more about their oral health here than they do at their regular dental clinics."

"It reminds students like me, who return to school in adulthood, that their hard work matters. It pays off when you put in the work."

Scholarships have also played a key role. The Metro Dentalcare/Heartland Dental Hygiene Endowed Scholarship and the Normandale Foundation Returning Adult Scholarship helped ease the cost of materials and board exam prep. "It's lifted some financial burdens," she says. "I can spend more time studying and less time worrying."

As she prepares to graduate in May, Briana is excited about Normandale's upcoming Center for Interprofessional Education in Healthcare. "I'd love to see collaborative outreach where patients receive both dental and primary care in one appointment."

She hopes donors understand the impact they make.

Her goals are simple but powerful: to be a great hygienist, build lasting relationships, and provide individualized care with empathy.



SIRTIFY® SPOTLIGHT: Chase Coleman's Journey

When Chase Coleman reflects on his junior high experience, he remembers the teachers who made a lasting impact, and now, he's focused on doing the same. After three years as a paraprofessional and then as a behavior specialist at Valley View Junior High School in Bloomington, Chase saw firsthand how meaningful it is to connect with students during a critical time in their development.

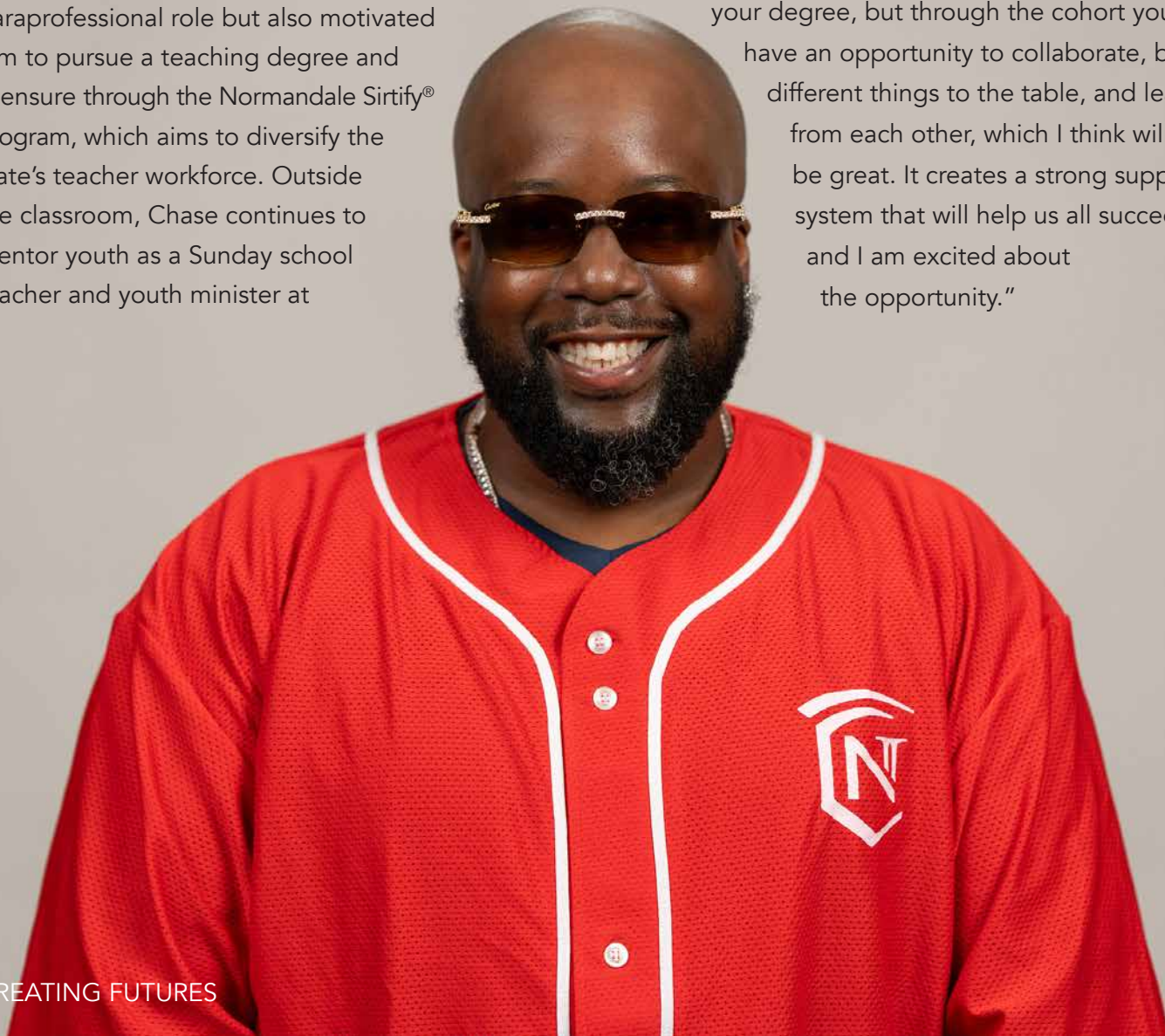
"In my head, that age group is a critical time for people trying to figure out who they are going to become," says Chase. "If I can have an impact on that, it would be amazing."

Budget cuts pushed Chase back into a paraprofessional role but also motivated him to pursue a teaching degree and licensure through the Normandale Sirtify® program, which aims to diversify the state's teacher workforce. Outside the classroom, Chase continues to mentor youth as a Sunday school teacher and youth minister at

Zion Baptist Church in North Minneapolis, building relationships and life skills that extend far beyond school walls. All these amazing experiences have led Chase to Sirtify®. He believes having a program like this is important for so many reasons.

"It is great to be part of a program that helps encourage Black males who are working with students to get a degree and open up their career options in the field."

"Sirtify® not only gives you the education to get your degree, but through the cohort you have an opportunity to collaborate, bring different things to the table, and learn from each other, which I think will be great. It creates a strong support system that will help us all succeed, and I am excited about the opportunity."



NURSING STUDENT: Early Start, Big Heart

From the moment she meets someone, Halle's heart is "on fire" for them. That instinctive empathy, shaped by personal loss and a close-knit family, has guided her toward a career in nursing and a life of service.

"I see the good in people right away," she shares. "I lost my brother, grandma, and grandpa all in one year. Seeing the care they received was life changing. It showed me how powerful good healthcare can be, and I want to be part of that difference."

Halle's journey began early. As a high school junior, she enrolled in Normandale's Post-Secondary Enrollment Option (PSEO) program, earning 32 college credits before graduation. That head start allowed her to dive into prerequisites and enter the nursing program as a sophomore.

"Normandale is so accommodating and kind. It's pretty awesome to have a school that's rooting for you. I love that it's on a smaller scale, my professors really focus on me and my learning."

She's found inspiration in the nursing faculty, who bring both clinical experience and deep compassion to the classroom. "They're all nurses themselves, they get us, and they're in the same spot we want to be in."

Halle's path has also been shaped by the De Oliveira Nursing Scholarship, which she says has lifted a major burden. "It's truly a privilege," she says. "I can focus more on my nursing skills and who I'm becoming as a nurse, and less on financial stress."

She hopes donors know the depth of their impact. "It's impacting lives in the most loving and kind way."

Looking ahead, Halle is excited about Normandale's upcoming Center for Interprofessional Education in Healthcare, opening in August 2026. "It's going to bring together the healthcare family. It helps you build relationships and gain perspectives on working alongside other professionals. It pushes you to be the best version of a nurse you can be."

With empathy as her guide and support behind her, Halle is well on her way to becoming the kind of nurse every patient hopes to meet.



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: DAN KAMPMEYER:
From Normandale Student to Foundation Board Chair

Dan Kampmeyer’s journey with Normandale Community College spans decades, and three distinct chapters. From first-time student to Foundation Board Chair, his story is one of growth, resilience, and a deep commitment to giving back.

Dan first enrolled in 1994, fresh out of Bloomington Kennedy High School. Balancing full-time work and college proved difficult. “Working full-time and going to high school was one thing,” he recalls.

requirements without the cost of out-of-state tuition while figuring out my path,” he says. “The Math Lab was top notch. It helped me get on par with everyone else. It’s a foundational place to learn and deploy your desire to grow,” he says.

Now Vice President of Operations at ABM, where he’s worked for 32 years, Dan credits Normandale with helping him build the skills and mindset to thrive. Inspired by fellow alum and former Foundation board

TOP PRIORITIES

- 1. Delivering on a comprehensive campaign
- 2. Attracting new board members
- 3. Expanding alumni engagement



“But, working full-time and going to college was much more challenging.” After switching to night classes, he found his stride and never earned less than an A again.

In 2006, Dan returned to Normandale through the business cohort program, graduating in 2008. The cohort model provided connection and motivation. “Having a group of folks you could connect with the whole time was fantastic,” he says.

What began as a practical choice became transformative. “I knew I could check off

“I see the Foundation’s role as multifaceted, supporting scholarships, basic needs, and transformational initiatives.”

chair Rome Poppler, he joined the Foundation Board in 2022, ready to invest in the next generation.

“Students don’t need to know the endpoint of their journey,” he says. “But it can start at Normandale, and I’m here to foster that.”

As board chair, Dan is focused on strategy and long-term impact. He’s especially energized by the comprehensive campaign and its potential to prepare students for the workforce of tomorrow.

A LEGACY OF GIVING:
Julie Guelich’s Enduring Impact at Normandale

Julie Guelich’s journey with Normandale Community College began in the classroom. As a graduate student in mathematics at the University of Minnesota, she started teaching part-time at Normandale and quickly felt at home.

“I had a mentor in college when I was a student in undergrad that thought that community colleges were really the wave of the future,” Julie says.

Her career grew from part-time faculty to department chair, Dean of STEM, and eventually Vice President of Academic Affairs, a role she held for over a decade. “One of the wonderful things about the position was that I could sit in on classes from a lot of different departments,” Julie says. “I got to know faculty a lot better, and I got to know students who were studying in different areas.”

Among Julie’s proudest accomplishments is the Academy of Math and Science (AMS), created in partnership with the Normandale Foundation. “I called it a three-legged stool,” she explains. “Advising, peer support, and financial assistance, each leg helped students focus more on learning and less on financial stress.”

The impact continues through AMS alumni who now mentor current students. “Many of the alums of the Academy of Math and Science have a really positive feeling about the support they received while they were students,” Julie says. “They were happy to mentor some of the current students.”

Her legacy also lives on in the Math Center, now named in her honor. “It was such an honor when I retired to learn they named the Math Center after me. It was a total surprise,” she says. “I’d always enjoyed working with students in the Math Center.”

Even in retirement, Julie continued to give back as a dedicated donor and member of the Foundation Board, a role she recently exited after serving two

three-year terms. “When I retired, I wanted to stay connected with the college,” she says. “I felt that I had knowledge of the various programs and degrees and knowledge about faculty and staff that maybe could help support the work of the Foundation.”

A steadfast supporter since 1986, Julie has made an extraordinary impact through nearly four decades of giving, championing AMS, academic travel programs, math scholarships, and the annual fund with remarkable generosity.

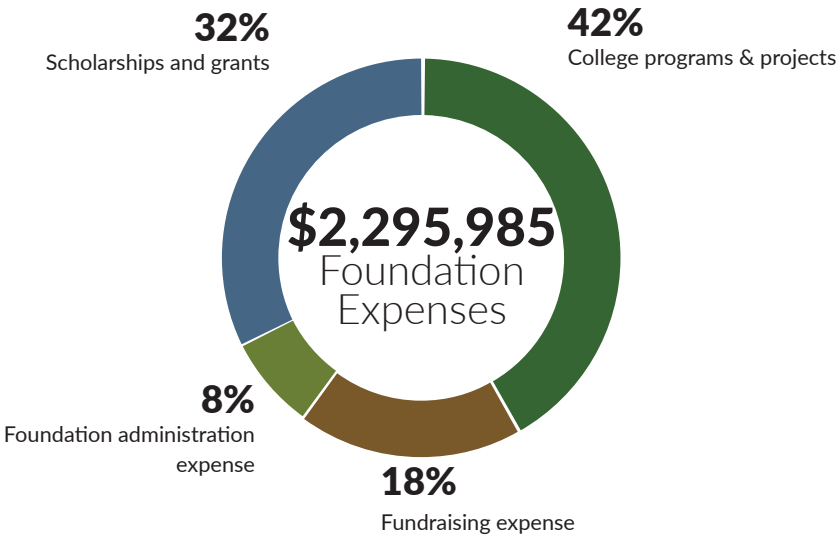
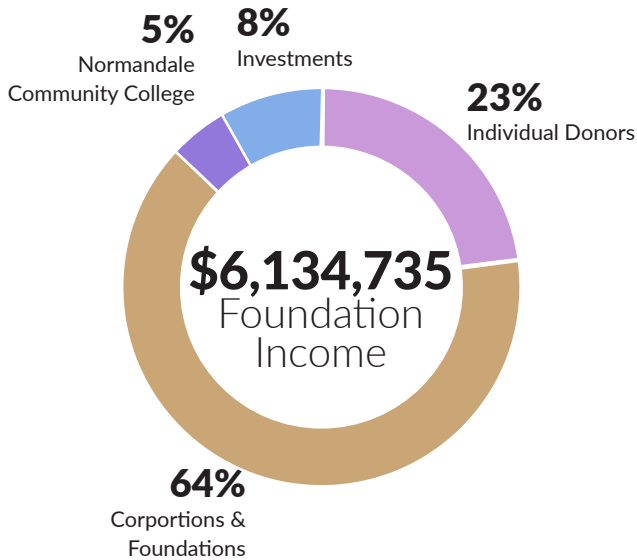
Julie believes deeply in community engagement and the importance of philanthropy. “People need to understand that while we are fortunate to have state funding for the college, it doesn’t cover all of the costs we need to educate students,” she says. “The more we can involve people outside the college, the better.”

Looking ahead, she’s optimistic about Normandale’s future. “I think, over the years that I’ve been involved with Normandale, the community at large has seen what a gem the college is,” Julie says. “I would say what excites me is that Normandale will continue to grow, continue to change, and meet the needs of our student population.”



FISCAL YEAR 2025
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

ASSETS	TOTAL	
Current assets:	\$	5,099,093
Investments:	\$	5,647,634
TOTAL ASSETS:	\$	10,746,727
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Total liabilities:	\$	545,611
Total net assets:	\$	10,201,116
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS:	\$	10,746,727



THANK YOU
2024-2025 DONORS

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Note: We work diligently to ensure all names are listed correctly. Please accept our sincere apology for any errors or omissions and contact us so we may correct future listings.

JOIN THE LEGACY CIRCLE AND MAKE A FOREVER IMPACT

The Legacy Circle honors those who have chosen to make a lasting impact by including the Normandale Community College Foundation in their estate plans. Joining is as simple as naming the Foundation as a beneficiary—creating a legacy that supports future generations of learners.

Here are some meaningful ways to get started:

- will
- life insurance policy
- revocable living trust, charitable remainder trust, or charitable lead trust
- savings account or certificate of deposit
- charitable gift annuity
- real estate
- 401K, IRA, or other qualified plan
- other assets

For more information or to request a copy of our Legacy Circle enrollment form, please contact Executive Director, Jane Fenton at **952.358.8143** or **jane.fenton@normandale.edu**.

We are deeply grateful to the Legacy Circle members (listed at right) for ensuring that Normandale continues to thrive for generations to come.

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IN MEMORIAM

In gratitude for their service and passion for Normandale, we recognize the following faculty, staff, retirees, and major benefactors who passed away July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025.

Gloria Aronson, History and Women's Studies
Wayne Becker, Biology
Axel Detlef Steuer, Foundation Board
Jayaseetha Rau Premanand, Mathematics

Ruth Sanford, Athletics
Rick J. Smith, former Dean of Enrollment,
Marketing & Multicultural Services

A Voice for Families: Kimberly's Path Forward



While working as a paraprofessional at Centennial Lakes Elementary in Richfield, Kimberly Hernandez Xochipiltécalt realized she wanted more; more connection with families, more tools to support students, and more opportunity to make a lasting impact. Unsure where to begin, she found her path through the SpedUP program at Normandale.

"Before SpedUP, I wasn't sure I could do college," Kimberly shared. "I didn't know what to do or if I'd have the support. But everything was structured perfectly, it took a lot of the stress away."

With guidance from advisors and a clear roadmap, Kimberly earned her associate degree and walked in Normandale's Commencement Ceremony in May. She's now continuing her education at Minnesota State University, Mankato, with plans to earn both her bachelor's and master's degrees in special education.

Her goal is to be a voice for families navigating the special education system and to ensure every child receives the support they need. "There are so many kids who need us now and in the future. We're the ones who will make the impact and it's important we work through any obstacles to be there for them."